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# THE HISTORY OF EAST GRINSTEAD.



THE  
HISTORY OF EAST GRINSTEAD.

BY  
WALLACE HENRY HILLS.

*EAST GRINSTEAD :*  
FARNCOMBE & CO., LIMITED, PUBLISHERS,  
LEWES, EASTBOURNE AND EAST GRINSTEAD.

1906.



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TO

JOHN C. STENNING, Esq.,

Who was the first to write a History of East Grinstead,  
and whose great knowledge and valuable collection of  
documents concerning the Town have been freely placed  
at my disposal, this Volume is respectfully dedicated by  
his grateful Servant,

W. H. HILLS.





## PREFACE.

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FROM an enormous mass of material available, never yet collected into one volume, and much of it never before put into print, I have selected that which is of general as distinguished from purely antiquarian interest. I have endeavoured to sketch the rise and progress of the town and the history of its institutions—those which have passed away, as well as those which still exist.

In my researches I have received valuable help from very many, both old friends and those who, until this work was taken in hand, were entire strangers to me. My grateful thanks are especially due to the officials at Somerset House, the Record Office, the Charity Commission and Brighton Free Library and of the L.B. & S.C. Railway Company for courteous assistance readily rendered at all times. I also desire to express my gratitude for the loan of documents and rare books and for help in other ways to the Most Noble the Marquess of Abergavenny, the Right Hon. the Earl of Liverpool, Sir Augustus Oakes, the Rev. D. Y. Blakiston, Mr. J. Batchelar (Lingfield), Mr. W. H. Campion (Daunton), Mr. F. G. Courthope (Lewes), the Rev. C. W. Payne Crawford, Mr. R. P. Crawford, Mr. Jury Cramp (Horsham), the Chaplain and Mother Superior of St. Margaret's, Mr. C. H. Everard, Mr. D. W. Freshfield, Miss M. K. Gainsford (Keston), Mr. A. H. Hastie, Mr. Evelyn A. Head, Mr. W. A. Head, Mr. James Harrison, Mr. E. P. Whitley Hughes, Mr. Alan Huggett, Mr. S. J.

Huggett, Mr. J. E. Lark, Mr. John Moon, Mr. J. R. Pearless, Mr. J. J. Pierce (Lamberhurst), Mr. R. G. Payne, Mr. J. Rice, Mr. H. Smeed, Miss Stenning, Mr. J. C. Stenning, Mr. W. V. K. Stenning, Mr. Alan Stenning, Rev. C. N. Sutton (Withyham), Rev. A. J. Swainson, Mr. John Tooth, Mr. F. Tooth, Mr. A. W. True and Mr. Edward Young.

My grateful thanks are particularly due to Mr. R. P. Crawford, Mr. A. H. Hastie, Mr. Evelyn A. Head and Mr. J. C. Stenning for their great assistance in reading and correcting proofs. In fact I have received nothing but kindness from all I have approached, and my task has thereby been made an exceedingly pleasant one. To mention all the published works which have been consulted would be impossible, but it is only right that I should acknowledge the great help which the Sussex Archaeological Society's Collections have been to me.

I sincerely hope this book will be found to supply, in some small measure, a want which has long been felt.

W. H. HILLS.

LANSDOWNE HOUSE,  
EAST GRINSTEAD,  
APRIL, 1906.

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# EAST GRINSTEAD.

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## CHAPTER I.

91 EAST GRINSTEAD is a town of considerable antiquity and importance. As its name implies, it possibly owes its origin to the fact that it was a "green stede" or a pasture clearing ("East" being added later to distinguish it from West Grinstead) in that great Forest of Anderida, 120 miles long by 30 miles wide, which formed an almost impenetrable barrier stretched along the northern boundary of the County of Sussex, but which, in time, got cut up into several minor forests, of which that of Ashdown was one of the most extensive. This latter is now mainly within the boundaries of the parishes of Buxted, Forest Row, Hartfield, Maresfield, Fletching and Withyham. The site of the Forest of Anderida can be still traced in a complete line from Tunbridge Wells to Horsham, there remaining to this day portions known as the Forests of Frant, Broadwater, Ashdown, Worth, Tilgate, Balcombe and St. Leonard's. In Saxon times it must have been the scene of many wild forays and freebooting encounters. The kingdom of Sussex was founded by Ella in 491. In 650 it was ruled by Ethelwald and was unsuccessfully invaded by Ceadwalla, a Prince of Wessex, who was repulsed, however, and had to seek refuge in the Forest of Anderida, where he drew to his side a band of outlaws, whose numbers so increased that finally he met and slew King Ethelwald in battle. Then followed years of bloodshed, of which this district must have seen its full share. In time the kingdom was conquered, and annexed, in 803, by Egbert, King of Wessex, to his dominions.

From the time of Edward III. down to the reign of Charles I. Ashdown Forest was strictly preserved as a Royal hunting ground, and our Monarchs often followed

the chase within its boundaries. It formed part of the possessions of John of Gaunt, fourth son of Edward III., by whom it was enclosed, becoming known as Lancaster Great Park. The hunting castle, erected by the Duke of Lancaster, was in the Vechery Wood (a name derived from the Norman-French "vacherie"—a cow-house or dairy)—a part of the Buckhurst property, but now belonging to Mr. S. M. Samuel, M.P. Herds of deer and swine formerly roamed at will through its glades and woods; wolves and wild boars had haunts therein; less than a century ago eagles frequented its almost untrodden warrens; and the now rare blackcock was often seen. Mr. John Turley, a local poet, in a volume issued in 1856, records the fact of two eagles being caught alive in dog traps some years before on the Forest. They were brought to Counsellor Staples, who lived at Hurst-an-Clays, and the men in charge of them started, later on, to take them to London. They never reached the Metropolis, however, for a press-gang seized the men, and the fate of the birds is unknown. The presence of deer in the Forest gave rise to several of the local names, such as Hart-field, Buck-hurst, Buckstead (now Buxted), Hind-leap and Kid-brook. The last of the wild deer was killed by the Hartfield Harriers about 1808.

In time the Forest became neglected, fences went to decay, the public gradually began to regard it as a sort of no-man's land, and in 1611 common rights were granted over about 6,400 acres, of which some 800 were in East Grinstead parish. In 1625 the Earl of Dorset was appointed Master of the Forest, Governor and Master of the Game and Keeper and Surveyor-general of the Woods. This appointment was made by the Duchy of Lancaster.

When Charles I. was dethroned, Parliament took possession of all the Royal lands and Cromwell had a very careful survey made of the Forest. To inhabitants in East Grinstead rights were confirmed over two sections, in all 723 acres in extent, one part lying between Plawhatch, Wych Cross and Kidbrook, and the

other between Mudbrook, Dallingridge and Plawhatch. Between thirty and forty persons were named as possessing these rights and they were allowed to turn out 445 head of cattle. On April 1st, 1662, the Forest was leased to the Earl of Bristol for 99 years, at £200 a year, but it is doubtful if he made much use of his tenancy. The rent was made part of the Queen Dowager's jointure, but the Earl did not pay it, made no profit from the grant and allowed it to become void. In 1678 the Forest was granted to Charles, Earl of Dorset, and his heirs for ever, and in his descendants it is still vested.

The open part of the Forest, to be preserved for ever for public enjoyment, is now managed by a Board of Conservators, the first election of whom took place on August 18th, 1885. How its present name was derived is unknown, certainly not from the number of ash-trees, for of such scarcely any traces can be found. The present name may be a corruption of the word "Archedown." The ordinary acceptation of the word "Forest" must not be taken as applying to that wild tract which formerly surrounded East Grinstead. In mediæval times a forest meant an extensive territory of uncultivated ground, not necessarily a thickly wooded portion of country. It was regulated by special laws and guarded by special officers. Dr. Cox, in his book on parochial histories, says:

A forest included within its boundaries, not only the King's land, but often also many manors belonging to private lords, whose rights, however, were much restricted, for they could not change their land from pasture to arable, nor cut down their woods, nor make enclosures such as would prevent the free access of the larger game. Though a forest was unenclosed, it frequently had, within its limits, several parks, which were always enclosed by a wall or pale.

The Royal properties in East Grinstead were not confined to the Forest area, but extended into the town itself. In 1650 a survey was made of certain lands and tenements in East Grinstead, "late pcell of the possessions of Charles Stewart, late King of England, as p<sup>te</sup> and pcell of the Dutchy of Lancaster," and though the Earls of Dorset had sold or leased those properties,

the Commissioners valued them among the Royal estates. They included a messuage and dwelling-house called the George, with its four burgages, two barns, stable, stall, garden, orchard and yard, occupied by Robert Pickering, who had recently built the house of stone and had secured a demise of it for ever on the payment to the Earl of Dorset of twelve pence and to Richard Amherst of forty pounds. A second property was Hartscroft, or Bushfield, or Bushcroft, of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres, in the tenure of Edward Paine, who had acquired it of two persons named Allen Carr, possibly father and son (one was Vicar of East Grinstead), for £40. A third was known as Digman's Mead or Katteraw's Mead and two parcels called the Riddens, of 11 acres, then held by Richard Cole, whose family acquired this also of the Carrs for £120. Katteraws is no doubt a corruption of "Katherines" and was a meadow originally belonging to the chantry or guild of that name. The revenue arising to the King from these three and one other property in Lingfield was £6 per annum, and a jury sitting at East Grinstead on May 20th, 1646, apportioned a rent of £2 to the George, £1 to Hartscroft, £2 to Digman's Mead and £1 to the Lingfield property. Cromwell's Commissioners valued the improved rent four years later at £24. 10s. and reported that they were unable to ascertain by what right or title the vendors had sold to the tenants named. But we know now that there was established in the town, a least a century before this date, a fraternity or merchant guild of St. George and St. Catherine. It had a chapel and owned a messuage called the George. In 1547, on the abolition of chantries, the George and other premises belonging to St. Catherine's Chantry passed to Edward VI. by Act of Parliament, and in 1551 the King granted these premises in fee simple to John Johnson and others for the use of Lord Richard Sackville, who thereupon granted the premises to his son, Thomas, for 60 years, and about six weeks later granted them in reversion for 99 years to William Sackville. But in the same year the premises came again to the Crown on an exchange made with Lord Clinton.

For a very long time the Sackville family owned the greater part of the town proper, the final portions of their property being sold on June 8th, 1882. They were not bad landlords and often dealt generously by the town. The following extracts from the Stewards' Accounts relating to East Grinstead, being payments made on behalf of Charles, Duke of Dorset, are interesting:—

	£	s.	d.
Pd. to the Poor in Sackville Colledge in East Grinstead for two years pension at Michmas, 1696 .....	241	11	8
Charge for two special Courts at East Grinstead .....	1	16	0
1698. Paid Mr. William Smith and others for the purchase of 560 acres of land in Ashdowne Forest....	280	0	0
1699. A horse sent to Knowl, which was seized in my Lord's Borough of East Grinstead, upon conviction of one who was executed for picking a pocket there. Charge in seizing of the horse on conviction of the pickpocket at East Grinstead and sending him to Lewes .....	10	0	0
Of Mr. Edward Head for East Grinstead Parsonage per ann. £120, for one year, due at Mich <sup>as</sup> , 1700 .....	120	0	0
Of Matthew Lant, Esq., for a croft of land p. ann. 1 <sup>li</sup> iiiij <sup>s</sup> , for two years rent due at Michmas, 1720 .....	002	8	0
Of Mr. Head for East Grinstead Parsonage p. ann. cxx <sup>li</sup> for the like .....	240	0	0
Of the Widow Cheal, <i>vice</i> Head, for a Cottage on East Grinstead Common p. ann. x <sup>s</sup> for the like.....	001	0	0
Of John King for a Tenemt near Sackvil Colledge in East Grinstead, formerly p. ann. 1 <sup>li</sup> , but lately burnt down, so remains for the like .....	0	0	0
Of John Heaver for a windmill newly erected on East Grinstead Common, p. ann. xiiij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup> , for the like ....	001	6	8
Casual profits. Timber, wood, faggots, &c., in the Manor of Imberhome .....	167	11	0
Paid Mr. Staples and Mr. Millington, which his Grace was pleased to order to be paid to the poor Sufferers by fire, lately happening at East Grinstead, as by two acquittances appears.....	40	0	0
Paid him two years Pension to the Poor of Sackville Colledge, at East Grinstead, due at Michmas, 1720, being cxxij <sup>li</sup> i <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup> p. ann., as by acquittances appear .....	244	3	4
Paid Mr. Edward Head, which his Grace was pleased to order him, for collecting Eastgrinsted quit rents, due at Michmas, 1718, as by acquittances appears .....	001	0	0

The parish of East Grinstead was originally the largest in Sussex, with the possible exception of Kirdford and Rotherfield before Frant was taken from the latter. It consisted of about 15,138 acres, but the exigencies of local government in time demanded that this rather unwieldy district should be divided, so in 1894 the district of Forest Row was created a separate parish, taking 8,635 acres and leaving East Grinstead, which is co-terminous with the urban district formed in 1884, with 6,503. According to the Tithe Commutation approved on July 26th, 1842, the parish then contained, of:—

	A.	R.	P.
Arable land .....	4,569	2	5
Meadow „ .....	2,034	0	5
Pasture „ .....	2,595	2	7
Hop „ .....	20	1	18
Common „ .....	1,265	0	31
Glebe „ .....	2	0	0
Wood „ .....	4,585	1	8

The last occasion, so far as is known, of “beating the bounds” of the Parish of East Grinstead took place on May 23rd, 1808, and two following days. At Baldwins Hill on this occasion the boundary stone was moved from private land to its present position in the roadway.

According to a license granted to Edward and James Woodman, in 1635, to sell wine, “Forest Roe” was also then known as “Walhatch.” This latter may be a contraction of Wallhill Hatch, Wallhill being a farm near Forest Row and the Hatch or entrance to the Forest of Ashdown being named from the nearest recognised point. These hatches, or forest gateways, had an upper and a lower division, the latter for the passage of persons on foot and the upper to prevent the deer leaping over the barrier.

It is difficult to get at any very accurate idea of the population of East Grinstead in early days, but in 1676 a religious census was taken of the Province of Canterbury, inquiries being sent to all ministers and churchwardens as to the number of persons above 16 years of age, “by common account and estimation inhabiting within each parish.” The return from East Grinstead

showed a total population of 800 above the age named, though this is possibly an approximate estimate. It would make the total population of East Grinstead about 1,100. Those concerned were also ordered to ascertain "what number of Popish recusants are there among such inhabitants?" They found that there were only five in this parish. Thirdly, they were required to state "what number of other dissenters are resident in such parishes which either obstinately refuse, or wholly absent themselves from the communion of the Church of England?" East Grinstead was found to contain 28 of such, so that the seed of Nonconformity had not taken very deep root at that date. This left 767 "Conformists." In the whole county at that time there were only about 52,000 inhabitants over 16 years of age and of these, all but 385 Papists and 2,452 "Sectaries," were returned as members of the Church of England. A somewhat similar census was taken again in 1724, when it was ascertained that out of 310 families in the parish of East Grinstead eleven were Presbyterian, one was Quaker and one Anabaptist, all the rest belonging to the Established Church. This would mean a total population then of about 1,250.

The first properly organised census of England was made in 1801 and has been continued every 10 years since, generally being taken on the first Sunday in April. Until 1891 the parish included Forest Row and no separate returns were made for the town and country divisions of the parish. Appended are the complete returns for the whole parish of East Grinstead from the commencement:

1801	.....	2,659
1811	.....	2,804
1821	.....	3,153
1831	.....	3,364
1841	.....	3,586
1851	.....	3,820
1861	.....	4,266
1871	.....	5,390
1881	.....	6,968
1891	.....	7,569
1901	{ East Grinstead ..... 6,094 }	8,610
	{ Forest Row ..... 2,516 }	

It is difficult to compare the present rateable value of the parish with any of the very early figures obtainable, but the few following facts are interesting:

May 7th, 1333. The value of taxes and rates in East Grinstead was returned at £3. 4s. 1d.

April 15th, 1524. The total value of the rates in East Grinstead was returned at £5. 14s. 6d.

February 20th, 1620. Total value of the rates in East Grinstead returned at £6. 4s. 8d.

June 18th, 1649. A return made this day showed that the total value of all lands, quit rents and tithes in East Grinstead was £3,178. 9s.

The rateable value of the real property in the parish has shown a very large increase during the last 80 years, as the following figures will show:

March 25th, 1825 .....	£4,141
"    "    1826 .....	3,949
"    "    1827 .....	4,459
"    "    1828 .....	3,974
"    "    1829 .....	4,025
"    "    1842 .....	9,720
"    "    1852 .....	9,145
March 25th, 1864 (when the first valuation list on the present lines came into force)	£16,380
March 25th, 1874 .....	19,932
"    "    1884 .....	28,741
"    "    1894 .....	41,540
"    "    1904 :—	
East Grinstead. £37,845 }	54,973
Forest Row .. 17,128 }	
November, 1905 :—	
East Grinstead. £42,076 }	59,831
Forest Row .. 17,755 }	

The increase of values during the last half century has been very great. A typical instance is afforded by the two houses which formerly stood where the premises of Rice Bros., Limited, now are. These were sold by Mr. Morphew in 1850 for £150 and bought by Messrs. Rice Bros. 40 years after for £750.

Apart from its history as a parish, East Grinstead has a very distinct and interesting history as a borough. At one time the town formed a part of the Royal possessions which went with the Castle of Pevensey, and it is still in the Pevensey Rape, one of the ancient divisions



of the County of Sussex, now used principally for excise and ecclesiastical purposes. Henry I. gave the estates to Gilbert de Aquila, whose son forfeited them by engaging in a rebellion, when the King re-took possession and settled them on his grandson, who afterwards became Henry II. This monarch assigned them to William, son of King Stephen, who held them until Henry came to the throne and four years later surrendered them back to his lord, conditionally that he should have an hereditary right to all lands belonging to his father, King Stephen, before he became King of England. The King thereupon returned the estates to the family of de Aquila, who appear to have enjoyed them quietly for some years. In the reign of Henry III. the head of this family made himself obnoxious to the King, and, as he went over to Normandy without the Royal license, the King seized all his property, which included his manor of East Grinstead, and in 1234 granted it to the Earl of Pembroke, but seems to have taken it back six years later, when he gave it to Peter de Savoy, who was uncle to his Consort. A few years later the property appears to have once more reverted to the Crown, and the King then gave it to Prince Edward and his heirs, Kings of England, on condition that it should never be severed from the Crown—a condition not long observed.

In the thirteenth century the mother of King Edward I. held the Barony of the Eagle and with it the Borough and Hundred of East Grinstead. The Hundred of East Grinstead was described as an escheat of the Normans, an escheat being a property reverting to the Crown by reason of the failure of lawful heirs or the offences of the owners. The jurors of the Hundred of East Grinstead reported about the same time that there were in the "Barony of Aquila (Latin for an eagle) 62 knights' fees which pertained to the Castle Guard of Pevensey." A "knight's fee," as applied to land, represents no definite quantity, but anything between one and five hundred acres of cultivable land.

King Edward I. paid one visit to his mother's borough. He came from Horsham on Tuesday, June 30th, 1299,

and departed on Wednesday, July 1st, for Leigh, on his way to Canterbury, where he was married for the second time on September 10th. In connection with this Royal visit a record is in existence of the following payments:

To the Clerk of the Marshalsea, advanced for the cure of certain sick horses of the King by the hand of Nicholas the Marshal, 10s., and for 8 quarters of oats at 2s. 6d., 20s.; to the Clerk of the Kitchen, for 2 quarters of wheat bought of Isabella de Puleyne at Chichester at 6s. per quarter, 12s.; to the Clerk of the Pantry, for 6 score gallons of beer bought from Gunnora, wife of Walter Alewede, 4s. 2d.; and for 55 gallons of beer from Peter de Hakenden, 4s. 7d.

In the reign of Edward III. the lordship of the town belonged to Reginald Cobham, Lord Stereborough, who in 1340 procured a charter of free-warren, namely, an exclusive right to kill all hares, rabbits, partridges and pheasants over its area, and he left it so privileged to his son, Reginald, in 1361.

According to the Harleian MSS. an inquisition was taken in 1559 in regard to the extent of the Borough of East Grinstead, and the jurors found that it was—

a Liberty of itself, without any intermeddling of ye hundred, or *vice versâ*; is within ye parish of East Grinstead, within ye Dutchy of Lancaster and ye liberty of ye same. There is contained within the said boro' of lands and tenements, as they are divided, 48 burgages, 47 portlands, 24 cottages, besides a stable and a smith's forge, and there be divers owners of the said burgages. The burgage holders and cottagers are all the Queen's tenants, and hold their tenements of her Majestie, as of her Manor of East Grinstead, by fealty only and suit of Court. This boro' is within the Liberty of the Dutchy and within ye parish of East Grinstead only, and there is no more of ye boro' of East Grinstead, but only ye town, and yet there is a common or heath, which is a common appendant to ye said boro', and lieth also within ye said boro' and is altogether within ye said parish of East Grinstead and within ye said Dutchy and Liberty of ye same. This boro' boundeth to ye lands of John Duffield, called Browning's Cross, and to ye glebe land of ye Parsonage of north part; to Love Lane of ye east part; to ye lands of John Duffield the elder, and lands late John Leedes of ye south; of ye Queen's highway leading from said boro' to Westleigh and to ye lands late Richard Homewood west. Ye said common or heath boundeth to Edw. Goodwin's lands south; to certain copyhold lands belonging to Imberhorne manor and ye demesne lands of said manor west; to ye lands of Thos. Sands, Esq., lands Bircheroff, Edw. Goodwin's lands, a croft late Thos. Durkins, ye lands of Wm. Outred and John Besh, lands belonging to ye George Inn and Wm. Langridge's tenements; and it is to be remembered that there is on ye common or heath one little piece of ground called the Windmill

Place, wch Henry Duffield purchased to him and his heirs of King Henry VII., with one tenement and a piece of ground lying west of ye said common and called Ye New House, wch Edw. Duffield now hath and holdeth.

The Duffields were long resident in East Grinstead and one of them named Thomas, a yeoman, was convicted for participating in 1541, at Laughton, with Lord Dacre, in that unfortunate poaching affray which brought this nobleman to the gallows. The mill spoken of was not pulled down until about 1900.

On May 15th, 1626, the Hundred of East Grinstead was ordered to raise money for 10 barrels of powder to be kept in store and also to keep the beacons sufficiently repaired and watched. A year later, on August 11th, the Hundred was called on to find 3s. and two men towards a press of 50 required from the county, no doubt to help in our ill-fated struggles in France and Spain.

The Alderman or High Constable of the Hundred had annually to appear at a "Sheriffes turne Court" held upon Berwick Common on the Thursday in Whitsun week. In a return to Parliament, dated June 1st, 1650, the duties of the "Aldermen" are thus quaintly set forth:—

The Aldermen of the sevall hundreds (w<sup>ch</sup> are chosen at y<sup>e</sup> leetes for evy hundred one) are then to appeare, and to certify how many head borrowes are in each hundred, and to bring 12 men with every alderman according to custome, to make a grand inquest, and the head borrows of evy borrough in the said hundreds are to appeare w<sup>th</sup> two side men, w<sup>th</sup> each of them to psent all publique abuses w<sup>th</sup>in their said borroughs and hundreds; any of these fayling are severally amerced, viz<sup>t</sup>, the Aldermen xx<sup>s</sup> each at the least, and their jurates vj<sup>s</sup> each, the head-borrough each iij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> at y<sup>e</sup> least, y<sup>e</sup> side men vj<sup>d</sup>, and all deodans fellous goods, fugetives and fellows of themselves, &c., psented and amerced, and all publique annanses, all y<sup>e</sup> fines and amerca<sup>ts</sup> at y<sup>e</sup> said court are levied by y<sup>e</sup> feodary Bailiffe of y<sup>e</sup> Dutchy, and ought to be accompted or compounded for by him . . .

A deodand was a personal chattel which had been the immediate occasion of the death of a rational being and for that reason "given to God"—that is, forfeited to the King to be applied to pious uses and distributed in alms by his high almoner. The Crown, however, frequently granted the right to deodands to devolve with certain lands. They were abolished in 1846.

“Annanses,” or annants, or annates, were the “first fruits,” or a year’s income of a spiritual living, given to the Pope on the death of a bishop, abbot, or parish priest, and paid by his successor. At the Reformation they were vested in the King and by Queen Anne restored to the church and appropriated to the augmentation of poor livings, forming the nucleus of the well-known Queen Anne’s Bounty Fund.

It is impossible to conceive what a vast difference there would have been in the whole character of the town and neighbourhood if East Grinstead but possessed a navigable river. Our forefathers were not blind to the advantages, both commercial and otherwise, which the district thus lost and they made several attempts to remedy the deficiencies of nature. In the sixteenth and seventeenth years of the reign of Charles II., Parliament passed an Act for making the river Medway, which originates from a number of little streams rising in and around East Grinstead and Turners Hill, navigable in the counties of Kent and Sussex. This vast work was never executed and 65 years later private individuals took the matter up and got a second Act passed authorising the formation of a company, to be called “The Company of Proprietors of the Navigation of the River Medway,” and the making of that river navigable from Maidstone to Forest Row, but this enterprise lingered on in imagination only until the country gradually became covered with a network of railways, when the project was finally abandoned.

For centuries the town proper consisted of only one straggling street reaching from the paygate, which stood at the east end of the High Street, to a spot near the present Literary Institute. There were a few houses between there and the White Lion. The town was entered from the London direction under a magnificent avenue of elms, which occupied both sides of the roadway from where the Tunbridge Wells railway line now goes under it to Queen’s Road, and a portion of which still remains on the Placeland Estate.

The Common, already referred to, commenced just beyond the White Lion Hotel and, but for a few isolated

cottages, formed a wild open tract reaching practically from the town to Felbridge and from Baldwins Hill to Imberhorne. The Duke of Dorset, as Lord of the Manor, began its enclosure about 1760 and his successors continued it until the only public piece now remaining is the Lingfield Road Recreation Ground. At North End formerly stood the public lime-kilns. Farmers used to fetch chalk by road from Lewes and make their own lime, for agricultural purposes, in the kilns on the Common. These were used by whoever needed them and, as may be imagined, disputes in regard to their occupation were not rare. The cartage of chalk was so great and so necessary an industry that by many general and local Acts carts conveying it were exempted from the payment of tolls, but a special clause was inserted in the last Act governing the East Grinstead roads (1850), withdrawing this exemption in regard to chalk and lime and continuing it in regard to lime only when being conveyed for use in improving land.

The town has never had much more than its residential and sporting capacities and its agricultural industry to depend on. It has long been the centre of a very fair timber trade, and at one time was enriched by the iron industry, but no large manufactories have ever been established, though many industries, such as brewing and mineral water making, boot and harness manufacturing, have been well represented in a moderate way. The quill pen manufactory established by Mr. Palmer, the issuer of penny and twopenny bank-notes, gained a wide repute and secured for the establishment the grant of the Royal Arms, the only one ever obtained by a local tradesman, and still to be seen over the premises, now owned and occupied by Mr. W. H. Dixon. The old felt hat manufactory was a fairly large one. Thomas Bodle, assistant warden of Sackville College, and who issued his own farthing, was a hatmaker here in 1680 and in 1798 William Tooth was carrying on the same business. It was located where the boot shop of Mrs. Roberts, in the London Road, now stands. The Tooth family then owned almost all the land between what is

now London Road and Hill Place, including Glen Vue, Queen's Road and West Street, then mainly of an agricultural character. A diary kept by the great grandfather of Messrs. Frederick and Edwin Tooth, who are now partners in business in the High Street, contains the following concerning his nephew:

December 19th, 1827, John Tooth sailed in the "Bencoolen," Captain John Martin, Master, for Van Diemens Land and New South Wales, with hops, rum, porter and hats for sale.

His brother had established himself as a brewer at Cranbrook and thence came the hops, rum and porter which formed part of this miscellaneous cargo. The hats came from East Grinstead. The goods apparently sold well, for John Tooth settled down in Sydney, established a brewery there and died worth over £300,000. His descendants have come back to England and are famous for their munificent donations to national and charitable institutions.

As already mentioned a few of our traders have had their own coins. In the reign of Charles I. and during the Commonwealth, before regal copper money was brought into general use, many tradesmen issued tokens of a farthing value, and the following were struck by East Grinstead residents:

1. *Obv.*: THOMAS . BODLE . IN. (The Mercers' Arms.)  
*Rev.*: EAST . GRIMSTED . SVSEX. T. E. B.

Thomas Bodle was a mercer and hat maker. The name is a fairly common one in Sussex, and Mr. Lower suggests it was possibly corrupted from Bothel.

2. *Obv.*: WILL . CLIFTON . SVSEX. (A sugar loaf.)  
*Rev.*: IN . EAST . GRINSTED. W. S. C.

This trader was apparently a grocer, but the name is not a common one in the district.

3. *Obv.*: AT . THE . CATT . IN . EAST (A cat).  
*Rev.*: GREENSTED . 1650. T. E. P.

This was issued by the proprietor of what is now the Dorset Arms. The famous old coaching house has borne several names. It comprised two of the 36 burgages, giving its tenant a right to a vote for the Members of

Parliament, and when first built was called "The Newe Inne." Subsequently it was named "The Ounce" and afterwards "The Cat," both these titles being derived from the two leopards which form the supporters of the Dorset arms. It was not called "The Dorset Arms" until the "Dorset Head," which stood where Barclay and Co.'s Bank now is, was done away with. This was originally named "The Chequer," and gave the name to the mead in the rear, which was subsequently attached to the Crown Hotel. John Taylor's "Catalogue of Tavernes in tenne Shires about London," published in 1636, says:

At East-Greensteed John Langridge and Henry Baldwin; the signes at East Greensted are the Crown and the Cat.

In 1811 The Dorset Arms was let at £30 a year, and The Crown, with its "outhouses, stables, yard, garden and bowling green," at the same figure. Both then belonged to the Sackville family. A considerable farm at that time went with the Crown, including the Friday, Chequer and Hips fields, and this farm was valued at £42 a year. The three coins named above were all farthings; the next, though practically of the same size, was a halfpenny:

4. *Obv.*: \*RICH . PAGE . AND . HEN . SEASTID. (A CROWN.)

*Rev.*: \*EAST . GRIMSTED . IN . SVSSEX. THEIR HALF PENY.

Richard Page also issued a Hellingly halfpenny in 1669, and he may have been in partnership with Seastid in East Grinstead. The latter name is a rare one, but may be the same as Isted or Histed, both of which are possessed by old local families.

In the latter part of the eighteenth century the copper coinage ran very short, and tradesmen again issued their own tokens in vast quantities. The only local one was issued by J. H. Boorman, a grocer and draper:

*Obv.*: The Freemasons' Arms, supporters, crest and motto, with legend "PRO BONO PUBLICO."

*Rev.*: The script cypher "J. H. B." in the field, with a pair of scales above and "1795" below and legend "EAST GRINSTEAD HALFPENNY."

*Edge*: PAYABLE AT J + H. BOORMAN 0 + 0 + 0.

Our traders at one time strongly resented the intrusion of outsiders, for the House of Commons minutes for February 9th, 1705, inform us that a petition of the aggrieved shopkeepers in the Borough of East Grinstead was presented to Parliament against continuing the licensing of hawkers and pedlars, and praying that some effectual remedy might be had to suppress such "intestine enemies." The petition was referred to a committee of the whole House, and possibly never thought of again.

It is quite possible that such an old Parliamentary Borough as East Grinstead had its coat of arms at a very early date, but it was either forgotten or in abeyance in 1572. In this year Thomas Cure, of Southwark, was elected M.P. for the Borough of East Grinstead, and he appears to have signalled his return by procuring for the town a grant of arms, presenting to the township a silver seal engraved therewith. What appears to be the original parchment grant of arms from the Heralds College is still in the possession of the Crawford family, to whom it has probably descended from their ancestor, John Payne, of East Grinstead, who died in 1579, and is one of the burgesses named in the grant, which reads as follows:—

Be it remembered that Gilbert Dethik alias Garter, Principall Kinge of Armes did graunt and allowe the xxx<sup>th</sup> day of May anno dni 1572 Anno Regni Regine Elizabethæ viiiij<sup>to</sup> At y<sup>e</sup> speeyall suyt of wyllyam Langridge then baylyffe of the bowronage towne of Estgrinsted in y<sup>e</sup> Countye of Sussex, Edwarde Goodwyne, John Payne, Thomas Lullingeden junior, John Duffylde, Edward Duffylde, Thomas Lullingeden senior, James Baldwin, Robart Hartfylde, wyllyam Bryan, Thomas ffawrkenor, John Atree, Edwarde Langredg, John Saxpes, Henry Browne, Thomas Dureky, Thomas Homewoode, George Partrydg and John Hazelden then being burgesses in the sayd burrowe towne and other the inhabytants of the sayde towne. ¶ And by the procuremente of maister Thomas Cure of Sowthwarke in the countye of Surr' esquyor, the paterne of y<sup>e</sup> Seale herein enexed to be a paterne of y<sup>e</sup> seale for the sayd Borrorghe towne, and that y<sup>e</sup> same paterne, and a Seale graven in sylver, accordeinge to the same paterne was cawsed to be made and geven to the sayde Bayliffe, burgesses, townshipe and inhabytants to the use of the sayde townshipe by the sayd Thoms' Cure at his proper cost & charges only, for the love & good wyll that he the



sayde Thomas Cure bare unto the sayd Burrowe towne and inhabytants thereof. Dated the day and yeare before written.

Per me Humfridum Roydon

1572

ffinis

A Paterne of a Seale for the Borroughe  
Towne of Estgrinstead in Sussex.



Graunted by Garter Principall  
Kinge of Armes  
by me Gilbert Dethick,  
als garter principall  
King of armes.

The five Prince of Wales feathers are in blue, with gold touches to the tips, the ground yellow, the rim gilt and the letters brown. The silver seal referred to has long since disappeared.

According to some authorities the town had another coat of arms—a rose surmounted by a crown. Cox's "Magna Britannia" gives a ducal crown, with rose below and "Sus" "sex" on either side, as the arms of the town, but there is no record of this at the College of Arms. Some local bodies have adopted this rose and crown as their seal, but they do not agree either as to the shape of the rose or the formation of the crown. The Gilbert Dethick who signs the grant was first Norroy and then Garter King of Arms, being raised to the latter office on April 29th, 1550. He was succeeded by William Dethick (possibly his son) on April 21st, 1586, and in connection with the grant to East Grinstead it is interesting to note that about this time gross irregularities with regard to the granting and confirmations of arms obtained in the Heralds College. "Some of the Heralds," we are told, "had taken to visiting and giving grants of arms on their own initiative, which they had no right to do except as deputies to one of the Kings of Arms." Their action brought about a positive scandal, so on July 18th,

1568, the Duke of Norfolk, as Earl Marshal of England, issued fresh regulations, one of which was:—

That from henceforth there shall be no new arms granted to any person or persons without consent thereunto of the Earl Marshall had. Provided always that it shall be lawfull for Garter, Clarenceux and Norroy and every other of them jointly together to give new crests and confirmances as heretofore they have done . . . and that no patents of arms be granted unless the hands of the three Kings of Arms be thereto subscribed.

Four years later the East Grinstead arms were granted. The latter part of the Earl Marshal's rule had been generally disregarded and new grants of arms continued to be issued on the authority of the Garter or one of the Kings of Arms alone. This is the case with East Grinstead; Garter alone signs it and the Earl Marshal's warrant is not mentioned and presumably was not obtained. The order had so little effect, and the scandal of unauthorised grants increased so much, that the public executioner obtained a grant with the Royal Arms of Aragon and Brabant! This was too much and the granter, Segar, successor to W. Dethick, was sent to prison for his freely bestowed favours.

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# THE DOMESDAY SURVEY.

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## CHAPTER II.

IN the year 1086 a survey was completed of that portion of Great Britain ruled by William the Conqueror. Appended is a translation of the local part of that very famous manuscript volume, written at Winchester from notes made by special officers sent to every part of the realm. Obsolete names and words are explained in parentheses, the renderings being mainly those suggested in the issue of Domesday Book published by the Sussex Archæological Society, or the Victoria History of Sussex :—

### In Grenestede Hundred.

In Calvrestot (Shovelstrode Manor) the Earl (Earl Robert of Mortain, half-brother to William the Conqueror) has 1 hide (probably meaning as much land as one plough could cultivate), which lay in the rape of Lewes. It is now outside the rape. It does not pay geld (land tax called “Dane-geld”). Alnod held it of King Edward (Edward the Confessor). There is land for 2 ploughs. There they are with one villein (persons in absolute servitude with their children and effects) and 3 bordars (cottagers). From the herbage 3 hogs. From the wood 5. (Rents were then often paid in swine.) In the time of King Edward and now worth 20 shillings.

In Celrestvis (? Shovelstrode Manor) Ansfrid holds one virgate of the Earl outside the rape. It has never paid geld. Ælmar held it of King Edward. There is land for 1 plough. There it is with one villein. From the wood and herbage 2 hogs. In the time of King Edward it was worth 5 shillings; now 7 shillings.

In Felsmere (Falmer or Felbridge) the Earl holds 1 hide and a half outside the rape. It has not paid geld. Villeins held it, and it is rated in the manor.

In Berchellie (Burleigh, Turners Hill) William holds 1 hide and a half of the Earl. It is outside the rape. It has not paid geld. In the time of King Edward Alfer held it of the Holy Trinity (probably some ecclesiastical establishment), in the Manor of Odetone (Wootton Manor in Westmeston), as the hundred testifies. There is land for 4 ploughs. There are 3 villeins and 1 plough. In the time of King Edward it was worth 20 shillings; now 10 shillings.

The same William holds Warlege (Warley) of the Earl. There are 2 hides. It has never paid geld; it is outside the rape. Ulueva held it of King Edward for 1 manor. There is land for 5 ploughs. There are 3 villeins with 3 ploughs. From the herbage 5 hogs and wood 2 hogs. Then 20 shillings; now 15 shillings.

The same William holds Sperchedene outside the rape of the Earl. It lay in Wildetone (a Manor of Ashurst or The Wilde) and has never paid geld. Cano held it of King Edward. There is land for half a plough. It was then worth 3 shillings; now 2 shillings.

Ansfrid holds 2 hides less one virgate outside the rape of the Earl. King Edward held them. They lay in the Manor of Diceninges (Ditchling), and have not paid geld. There is land for 6 ploughs. From the wood and herbage 6 hogs. There is one acre of meadow and one iron mine. (The only mine mentioned in the Sussex survey.) There are six villeins with two ploughs. In the time of King Edward they were worth 15 shillings; now 20 shillings.

The same Ansfrid holds half a hide outside the rape. It is called Halseeldene (Hazelden; or Hazeldene in Dallington; or Haselden in Burwash). Ulward held it of King Edward. It lay in Alitone (Allington in St. John's, Lewes) and has never paid geld. There is land for 2 ploughs. It was worth 10 shillings: now 5 shillings.

The same Ansfrid holds half a hide Biochest (Buckhurst in Withyham; or Brockhurst, an extinct manor in East Grinstead; or Burghurst, near Horsted Keynes) outside the rape of the Earl. Frane held it of King Edward. It lay in Waningore (Warringore Manor in

Chailey). It has never paid geld. There is land for 1 plough and there it is with one villein. It was worth 15 shillings; now 5 shillings.

Ralph holds Branbertie (Brambletye) of the Earl. Cola held it of King Edward. It then and now vouched for one hide. There is land for 1 plough and a half. There is a priest with one villein and one plough and a half and 14 bordars. From the wood and herbage 12 hogs and 5 acres of meadow and 1 mill of 2 shillings. (This mill still exists and is occupied by Messrs. Holmden and Son. The only other mill in the district was at Hertevél—Hartfield—and its annual rent was 4s. and 350 eels, rent being then often paid in eels, which abounded in the mill-ponds.) In the time of King Edward it was worth 30 shillings; now 20 shillings.

The same Ralph holds Waslebie (Whalesbeach Farm in East Grinstead) outside the rape of the Earl. There is 1 hide. Fulchi held it of King Edward. It lay at Lovintune (East Lavant). It has never paid geld. There is land for 3 ploughs. There are 2 villeins with half a plough. It was worth 30 shillings; now 20 shillings.

The Earl himself holds outside the rape one virgate and a half, Standene. (Possibly Standen, but if really outside the rape then Standean in Pyecombe and Ditchling.) Azor held it of King Edward. It lay at Bevedene (Bevendean in Falmer). It has never paid geld. It is accounted for and rated in the manor of Torrings (Tarring Neville).

The Earl himself holds Ferlega (? Fairlight) for one rod. It is outside the rape, in the rape of Lewes. It lay at Dicelinges (Ditchling). It has never paid geld. There is land for half a plough. There is one villein with one plough. It was worth 10 shillings; now 5 shillings.

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# THE BOROUGH OF EAST GRINSTEAD AND ITS MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

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## CHAPTER III.

FOR more than 530 years the Borough of East Grinstead was represented by two Members in Parliament and the town has sent many famous men to the House of Commons. The privilege was possibly first conferred in 1295, when the "First Complete and Model Parliament" met, but the earliest record of any return is in the year 1300-1, the 29th of the reign of Edward I. The right of voting, when it came to be exercised by the inhabitants, was almost exclusively confined to the holders of burgages, and the number of this class of tenements seems never to have exceeded 36, of which almost the whole were for many years vested in the Sackville family, so that it was essentially a "nomination borough." The last patrons of the nomination borough were the Earl De la Warr and the Earl of Plymouth, their Lordships having married two sisters, co-heiresses of the Duke of Dorset, a former patron. A burgage holder was a burgess, citizen or townsman who held his land or tenement direct from the King, or other lord, for a certain yearly rent, or who held it under socage—the tenure of one over whom his lord had a certain jurisdiction. There were several kinds of socage, the most common in East Grinstead being "free socage," implying that the service to be rendered was not only certain, but honourable, such as the payment of a merely nominal yearly sum or the declaration of fealty, meaning, "If you need my sword to be drawn on your behalf it shall be at once unsheathed." Thus an independent freeholder or a tenant under any but the King or Lord of the Manor had no vote whatever. Appended are the names of Members, so far as they can be ascertained,

with brief biographies of the more famous and notes of petitions and other events of interest :

1300-1. Willielmus ate Solere and Willielmus le Fughel.

Both these were East Grinstead people, their names appearing in a local subsidy roll of that date.

1307, Oct. 13th. Galfridus le Fisser and Thomas Squier.

1309, April 27th. Willielmus de Holindale *vel* Holmdale and Galfridus le Fisshere.

It was evidently the first named of these two members who founded, in 1325, a chantry in the parish church of East Grinstead and endowed it with lands in the parish and rents out of the Manors of Duddleswell and Imberhorne. There were Hollingdales living in East Grinstead at the Round Houses until they were pulled down to make room for the Constitutional Club.

1311, Aug. 8th. Thomas Flemmyng and Galfridus ate Solere.

1311, Nov. 12th. Willielmus de Holyndale and Johannes atte Solere.

1313, Sept. 23rd. Galfridus le Ku and Willielmus de Holyndale.

For the four next Parliaments no returns were made for the Borough of East Grinstead.

1322, Nov. 14th. Willielmus de Holindale and Galfridus Cocus.

The latter was possibly the same person as "le Ku" returned in 1313.

1325, Nov. 18th. Willielmus atte Sol . . . and Willielmus de Holy . . .

The finals of both these names are defaced in the original returns. They possibly were Solere and Holyndale.

1348. Willielmus le Couk and Johannes atte Solere.

1354. Thomas Rous and Willielmus le Couk.

1355. Willielmus Couk and Thomas Rous.

1357-8. Willielmus Couk and Thomas Rous.

1360. Thomas Rous and Johannes Alfray.

The Alfreys were a well-known Sussex family, for a long time owners of Gulledege and Tilkhurst, which now form part of the Imberhorne estate.

1360-1. Thomas Rous and Johannes Alfray.

1362. Gregorius atte Hole and Johannes Alfray.

- 1363. Gregorius atte Hole and Johannes Alfray.
- 1364-5. Gregorius atte Hole and . . . Holyndale.
- 1366. Gregorius atte Hole and Ricardus Clerk.
- 1368. Gregorius atte Hole and Johannes Alfray.
- 1369. Thomas Eston and Galfridus Cook.
- 1371. Gregorius atte Hole.
- 1372. Galfridus Cook and Gregorius atte Hole.
- 1373. Ricardus Mayhew and Ricardus Danyel.
- 1378. Ricardus Hygon and Ricardus Woghery or Wowere.

“Woghery” is possibly the same as the modern name of Woolgar, which is well known in East Grinstead and common throughout Sussex.

- 1381. Johannes atte Sloughtre or Sleghtre and Johannes Farlegh.
- 1382. Ricardus Woghery and Ricardus Danyel.
- 1382-3. Thomas Wykes or Wyke and Johannes Dyn.

John Dyn or Dyne was probably descended from the Dynes of Wikedyn, Northampton, who came over with the Conqueror and branches of which family afterwards settled at Bethersden, Kent, and Westfield and East Grinstead, in Sussex. The present representative of this old family is Mr. John Bradley-Dyne, of Lincolns Inn, Barrister-at-law, one of the Conveyancing Counsel to the Court of Chancery.

- 1383. Johannes Sleghtre and Thomas Wyke.
- 1384. Ricardus Danyell and Ricardus Weghere.
- 1385. Ricardus Danyel and Ricardus Woghery.
- 1387-8. Johannes Dyn or Dyne and Johannes Heldele.
- 1388. Ricardus Wowere and Willielmus Nelond.
- 1391. Johannes Alfray and Johannes Dyn.
- 1392-3. Thomas Rasse and Thomas Aleyn.
- 1394-5. Thomas Farlegh and Willielmus atte Hulle.
- 1396-7. Johannes Punget and Johannes Dyn.
- 1397. Johannes Dyn and Johannes Punget.
- 1399. Johannes Dyne and Ricardus Woghery.
- 1402. Johannes Dyne and Ricardus Wowere.
- 1407. Johannes Dyn and Ricardus Wowere.

In this year the Commons established the Constitutional maxim that all money grants must originate in their House and not in the Lords.

- 1413. Johannes Hoke and Thomas Aleyn.
- 1414. Johannes Dyn and Thomas Wower.
- 1419. Willielmus Fenyngham and Johannes Hamme.

The Fenningham or Frenyngham family lived at Waldron and during Jack Cade's insurrection the rebels



plundered their house of precious stones and other valuables and held the owner, William Fenningham, possibly the member who sat for East Grinstead in 1436, to ransom.

1421. Johannes Wower and Ricardus Fowell.

The Fowles are still a well-known East Grinstead family.

1421. Johannes Alfray and Johannes Wower.

1422. Willielmus Fenningham and Johannes Alfray.

1423. Johannes Wower and Johannes Dyne.

1425-6. Johannes Wower and Georgius Eyr.

This was the "Parliament of Bats," which met at Leicester, so called because the members had to take cudgels to protect themselves.

1427. Johannes Mason and Ricardus Foull.

1429. Thomas Bordeveld and Ricardus Foghell.

1430-1. Johannes Huddle or Hudde and Jacobus Janyu.

1432. Jacobus Janyu and Johannes Hudde.

1433. Jacobus Janyu and Thomas Russell.

1435. Robertus Davers and Johannes Page.

1436-7. Willielmus Fenyngham and Johannes Wogher.

1441-2. Ricardus Dalby and Willielmus Redeston.

1446-7. Johannes Alfray and Radulphus A. Legh.

1448-9. Johannes Blakeney and Johannes Stokke.

1449. Hugo Huls and Johannes Blakeney.

1450. Johannes Alfray and Johannes Westbourne.

The dates hitherto given are those on which Parliament was summoned to meet. In the original records the actual dates of election at East Grinstead now begin to find a place, and where these can be ascertained they are inserted.

1452-3, Feb. 20th. Ricardus Strickland and Johannes Alfray.

1459. Johannes Alfray and Robertus Rednesse.

1460. Thomas Chaloner and Ricardus Alfray.

Thomas Chaloner lived at Deanlands, Hurstpierpoint, and was one of the well-known Cuckfield Chaloners. He died on January 3rd, 1481. In 1621-2 one member of the family married Fortune Mascall, a widow, of East Grinstead, and in 1632 Richard Chaloner was a mercer in East Grinstead. He married Anne Bryant, of this town, and then removed to Cuckfield.

1467. Nicolaus Morley and Ricardus Alfray.

1472, Sept. 18th. Ricardus Lewknor and Robertus Foster.

Foster has always been a fairly common name in East Grinstead. The Lewknor family occupied a very high position in Sussex from 1300 to 1550. Its members frequently filled the office of High Sheriff and represented East Grinstead and other towns in Parliament. Richard Lewknor, who was elected M.P. for East Grinstead in 1472, lived at Brambletye. He was Sheriff of the County in the years 1471, 1492 and 1496. When Richard III. came to the throne there was trouble in the State and Richard Lewknor was one of several called on to besiege Bodiam Castle, which the rebels were holding and which belonged to Thomas Lewknor. He served in two Parliaments as M.P. for this Borough and died February 13th, 1503. His second wife was Katherine, daughter of Lord Scales, to whom further reference will be found in the chapter dealing with the Charities of East Grinstead.

1477, Dec. 31st. Ricardus Lewknor, sen., and Ricardus Alfray.

1529. Willielmus Rutter and Edwardus Godewyn.

This was the beginning of the "Seven Years' Parliament." From the 22nd year of King Edward IV. down to the 14th of Henry VIII. it is the only return for East Grinstead of which any record has been preserved. To a certain extent this is accounted for by the fact that Parliament was rarely summoned. It only met once during the 13 years of Henry VII.'s reign, and very rarely during the first 20 years of Henry VIII.'s.

1541-2. John Sakevyle.

This apparently was the first member of the illustrious Sackville family sent to Parliament by East Grinstead. He lived at Chiddingly, and married an aunt of Anne Boleyn's, so was great uncle, by marriage, to Queen Elizabeth. He died on October 5th, 1557, and was buried at Withyham. He willed that at his funeral "12 great tapers of viii. lb. a piece be alight all the service time and every man receive a gown, vii<sup>d</sup> and his dinner."

1547. Jasperus Culpeper and Johannes Sakvyle, junior.

The Culpepers were a very old Sussex family and for a long period of years occupied Wakehurst, the mansion

there being built by Sir Edward Culpeper in 1590. They were the owners of "divers lands and tenements in East Grinstead," held of the Manor of Walstede "by fealty only."

1552-3, Feb. 18th. Sir Robert Oxenbrege and George Darell.

Sir Robert Oxenbridge, of Brede, was a famous public character and statesman. He sat for the County of Sussex in 1554, 1555 and 1557. In 1539 he was one of the Commissioners of Musters for the Rape of Hastings, and in 1551 was Sheriff of Sussex. He was Constable of the Tower of London in 1556-7.

The Darell family for a time resided at Scotney, Sussex.

1553, Sept. 25th. Sir Thomas Stradling and John Story, D.C.L.

According to an ancient historian the first named of these Members was the eldest of 12 brothers, "most of them bastards," who had "no living but by extortion and pilling (?pillaging) of the King's subjects." He was born in 1498, his father being Sir Edward Stradling, of St. Donats, Glamorgan. He became Sheriff of Glamorgan and was knighted on February 17th, 1549. He represented first East Grinstead and then Arundel in Parliament. He was a staunch Roman Catholic, but early in 1561 was arrested for having caused four pictures to be made of the likeness of a cross, as it appeared in the grain of a tree blown down in his park at St. Donats. For a long time he was kept prisoner in the Tower, but was finally released on entering into a bond for 1,000 marks to appear when called on. He died in 1571 and was buried in the private chapel attached to St. Donats Church.

The Member returned with him to represent East Grinstead—"The Blessed John Story, Roman Catholic martyr," according to one authority, and "the bloody butcher and traitorous rebel," according to another—had a most remarkable career, which merits more than passing notice. He was a north-countryman, born about 1510, and early became a lay brother of the Greyfriars. He was educated at Oxford, took the B.C.L. degree in 1531

and four years later was appointed Civil Law Lecturer, becoming Principal of Broadgates Hall (afterwards Pembroke College) in 1537. This post he resigned two years later, but got his D.C.L. degree before doing so. In 1544 he was in Boulogne and rendered great services during the siege in the administration of the Civil Law. As a reward for his services he received a fresh patent for his office at Oxford and ranks as the first Regius Professor of Civil Law at the University. Soon after the boy Edward VI. came to the throne Story recanted his Romanist opinions, but this secession was only temporary. He strongly opposed the Act of Uniformity and caused a great sensation in the House by exclaiming, during the debate, "Woe unto the land whose king is a child!" For this he was thrown into the Tower and thus provided the first known instance of the Commons punishing one of their own members. In time he made submission and was released, but thought it advisable to get out of England, so he retired to Louvain until Mary came to the throne. Lady Jane Grey safe in the Tower he at once came back, was restored to his Professorship and a month later was elected M.P. for East Grinstead. He soon resigned his Oxford appointment and became the most active of all the Queen's agents in bringing heretics to trial and the stake. Foxe, in his "Book of Martyrs," says he "consumed to ashes two or three hundred blessed martyrs," and applies to him some of the strongest epithets which he uses throughout the work, such as "bloody tyrant," "bloody persecutor" and "bloody Nimrod." In 1555 he was appointed Queen's Proctor for the trial of Cranmer. On Elizabeth's accession he renounced all foreign jurisdictions, but in 1559 he made a speech glorying in what he had done during Mary's reign and quickly found himself in the Fleet prison. But only for a time. Liberty, however, was almost as brief and his next compulsory home was the Marshalsea. From here he escaped to the Spanish embassy and was smuggled away to Flanders. Philip II. granted him a pension, the Duke of Alva put him into office and he established the Inquisition in Antwerp.

In England a plot was hatched for his capture. A vessel sailed to Bergen, Story was enticed on board by a tale that forbidden books were among the cargo, the hatches were battened down, the vessel at once set sail and Story soon found himself at Yarmouth. He was taken to the Tower and on May 26th, 1571, brought to trial in Westminster Hall on a charge of inciting the Duke of Alva to invade England. He refused to plead and claimed to be a Spanish subject, but was condemned for treason, sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered, and on June 1st this sentence was carried out at Tyburn in its entirety and with cruelties too horrible to detail here. Three centuries later Pope Leo XIII. honoured his memory by raising him to the ranks of the Blessed—one stage below the Saints—the decree of beatification being dated December 29th, 1886.

1554, April 2nd. Ricardus Whalley and Anthoninus Stapleton.

Richard Whalley was a famous man in his day. Born in 1499, he was the only son and heir of Thomas Whalley, of Kirkton, Northampton. Introduced at Court he ingratiated himself with Henry VIII. by reason of his grace and skill in martial exercises, and being entrusted with some work in connection with the suppression of monasteries did it so well that on February 26th, 1538-9, he was rewarded with a gift of Welbeck Abbey and other lands. Some seven years later the Manors of Sibthorp and Wimbleton were added to his possessions. When Somerset became Lord Protector to the young King Edward VI. Whalley was made his steward and for a time stuck to him through all his intrigues, though he found himself in the Fleet prison as a consequence. But when Somerset was arrested, Whalley's fidelity gave way and he was one of the principal witnesses against him. The master went to the block; the man was deprived of all his manors and on September 19th, 1552, was committed to the Tower. Immediately on Mary's accession he was released, and a few months later was sent to Parliament by East Grinstead. He subsequently got into favour

with Elizabeth, and on July 3rd, 1561, she granted him the Manors of Whatton, Hawkesworth and Towton, and he finally passed away on November 23rd, 1583, despite all his troubles, a very wealthy man. He was three times married and was the father of 25 children.

1555, Oct. 14th. William Berners and John Wiseman.

1557-8, Jan. 18th. Thomas Sakevyle and Thomas Parker.

Thomas Sackville was a famous statesman, who afterwards became Lord Buckhurst and first Earl of Dorset. He was born at Buckhurst in 1536, and as a youth showed great ability and wrote some poetry which won him a very early reputation, while a play of his was produced with great success at Drury Lane 175 years after his death. He was first elected to Parliament for both East Grinstead and the County of Westmoreland and elected to sit for the latter, but when Elizabeth came to the throne he chose to represent East Grinstead. For six years, from 1561, he was Grand Master of the English Freemasons. He became attached to the Court of the Virgin Queen and, after his father's death, was granted by her the reversion of Knole. He was knighted on June 8th, 1566, by the Duke of Norfolk, and on the same day Elizabeth raised him to the degree of a peer, making him Baron of Buckhurst. In 1570 he was sent as a special ambassador to Charles IX., King of France, and a year later was one of the peers who tried and condemned the Duke of Norfolk, the very man who knighted him, for high treason by reason of his connection with Mary, Queen of Scots. Lord Buckhurst was chosen to convey to this unfortunate lady her sentence of death, and he did this so delicately that she presented him with a carving from her private chapel, a gift which is still preserved at Knole. His conduct of a mission to the low countries to inquire into complaints against the Earl of Leicester incurred the Queen's disfavour and on his return he was confined to his house by her orders for nearly a year, during which time he never saw his wife or children. The Earl of Leicester dying soon after, Lord Buckhurst stepped immediately into Royal favour again, was made a Knight

of the Garter and Chancellor of Oxford University, being finally raised, on Lord Burleigh's death in 1598, to the office of High Treasurer of England, in which appointment he was continued by King James, who made him Earl of Dorset on March 13th, 1604. At a Council Meeting at Whitehall on April 19th, 1608, he had an apoplectic seizure and died suddenly, leaving behind him, says Southey, "an unblemished reputation in murderous times." He was buried at Withyham.

1558-9, Jan. 14th. Thomas Sackville and Humphrey Lloyd.

1562-3, John Sackville and Lawrence Banister.

1571. Sir John Jefferay and Henry Berkley.

Sir John Jefferay was raised to the judicial bench five years after his election for East Grinstead. Having held the appointment a year and a half he became Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer, but died in the succeeding year "at London in the Ward of Collmans Streate, 13 May, 20th Elizabeth." His mother was, before her marriage, Miss Elizabeth Whitfeld, and it was one of her relatives who afterwards owned Rowfant and carried on the ironworks there. Sir John was a considerable owner of property in and around the parish of Chiddingly, in Sussex.

1572. Thomas Cure and Michael Heneage.

Thomas Cure, of Southwark, in the year he was first elected, presented East Grinstead with its coat of arms. He was Lord of the Manor of Lavorty, and died May 25th, 1588.

Michael Heneage in turn represented Arundel, East Grinstead, Tavistock and Wigan. He was a famous antiquary, and he and his brother were appointed joint keepers of the records in the Tower. Though living in London he was a landed proprietor in Essex. He died December 30th, 1600.

1584, Oct. 22nd. Francis Alforde.

1586, Oct. 1st. John Covert and Drew Pickesse.

The first-named of these members lived at Ewhurst and was the second son of Richard Covert, of Slaughtam. He married Charity, daughter of Sir Martin Bowes, jun.,

and a niece of his father's second wife. His nuncupative will was proved in 1589, and contains the following:

That for his bodye, his disease excepted, he was as sounde as any man in Englande, and concerning his landes and goodes, if he had ten 1000 pounds I would put my brother Walter in trust withall, unto whom all things shall goe if my daughter fail.

The Walter named was his elder brother, knighted in 1591, and the builder of the magnificent mansion at Slaugham, of which only ruins now remain.

Drew Pickesse came of a family which, for a brief period, occupied Brambletye.

1588, Oct. 21st. Francis Alford and Thomas Frere.

1592-3. Reade Stafford, of Bradford, Berks, and John Shurley, of Isfield, Sussex.

The latter was the son of Sir John Shurley and died October 24th, 1611.

1597, Sept. 11th. George Ryvers and Richard Baker.

1601, Sept. 25th. Henry Compton and George Rivers.

Henry Compton, of Brambletye, was afterwards knighted. He built the house which now stands in ruins. He was a son of Sir Henry, afterwards Baron, Compton, of Compton Wynyates, Warwick, an ancestor of the present Marquess of Northampton. He married, firstly, Cecille, daughter of Robert, Earl of Dorset, and, secondly, Mrs. Mary Paston, a daughter of Sir George Browne. The name is derived from the lordship of Compton, near Warwick, of which place its founders were lords previous to the Conquest. Sir Henry, for many years, held the post of Ranger of Ashdown Forest and he was apparently a very easy-going official, for there are several instances on record, in Parliamentary reports, of his allowing people to erect houses on the Forest and enclose portions of it "contrary to the laws in force" and exempting the tenants from all rents or service for the same.

1603-4, Feb. 8th. Sir Henry Compton and Sir John Swynerton.

This was the first Parliament of James I. It sat until 1610. From then until 1614 there was no sitting; then "The Addled Parliament" met, but did no business.



1620-1, Jan. 1st. Sir Henry Compton and Thomas Pelham.

This was the third Parliament of James and the first in his reign to do any real work. Thomas Pelham was, no doubt, the second holder of the Pelham baronetcy, to which he succeeded in 1624, and an ancestor of the present Earl of Chichester.

1623-4, Feb. 7th. Sir Robert Heath and Mathias Caldicote.

Sir Robert Heath was made Solicitor-General on Jan. 22nd, 1620, and Attorney-General on Oct. 31st, 1625. When the House met on Feb. 9th, 1625-6, the Speaker drew the attention of the Members to the fact that the Bailiff of East Grinstead had returned the Attorney-General as a Member contrary to the decision the House had come to on April 8th, 1614, that this officer of the Crown should not be allowed a seat in Parliament. The House decided to uphold this decision, and the next day a new writ was ordered to be issued for East Grinstead in the room of Robert Heath, Attorney-General, declared incapable of sitting. He became Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas in 1631 and Chief Justice of the King's Bench in 1643. The Heaths were a well-known Exeter family, who from 1685 to 1785 owned and resided in the house at Ottery St. Mary, the present seat of Lord Coleridge, whose ancestors bought it from the Heath family about 1795.

1625-6. Sir Henry Compton and Sir Robert Heath.

1625-6. Sir Henry Compton and Robert Goodwyne, Goodwin or Godwin.

Robert Goodwin, a Covenanter, was afterwards knighted and four more times elected for East Grinstead. He last sat in Richard Cromwell's Parliament, which met on Jan. 26th, 1659.

1627-8, Feb. 18th. Sir Henry Compton and Robert Goodwyn.

From 1629 to 1640 there was no Parliament, Charles I. dissolving it because of the "seditious carriage of some vipers, members of the Lower House."

1639-40, March 4th. Sir Henry Compton and Robert Goodwin.

This was the "Short Parliament." Charles wanted money, the Commons would give him none, so he dismissed

them after they had sat only three weeks. The East Grinstead election led to the first petition of which there is any record in connection with this borough. It appears that some of the inhabitants, other than the burgage holders, were allowed by the Bailiff of East Grinstead, Mr. Blundell, to record their votes, and others, being dissatisfied, petitioned Parliament, which met on April 13th, 1640. Mr. White got 13 votes, Mr. Goodwin 14, and the allegation was that the latter made "a feoffment . . . w<sup>ch</sup> did multiply voices." Mr. Goodwin affirmed that the inhabitants as well as the burgage holders had a right to vote, and Parliament at that time upheld him and declared him and Sir Thomas Compton duly elected. It was stated during the hearing of this case that Mr. Blundell, the bailiff, threatened both at the time of election and to witnesses who were going to give evidence at the trial that if people would not vote for Mr. White, or if they raised their voices for Mr. Goodwin, "their servants should be prest and their carts taken." On behalf of the Earl of Dorset, however, it was affirmed that he wrote to the town "to make a fair and a very free election." The House decided, on April 24th, that Sir H. Compton and Mr. Goodwin were well elected, and they were duly called to their seats in the House. Edward Blundell, the bailiff, was sent for by the messenger of the House, "as a delinquent for misdemeanours by him committed at, before and since the election." How the over-zealous Bailiff subsequently fared the House of Commons journals do not record. His delinquencies were possibly overshadowed by the more serious affairs of State. The Bailiff had returned Mr. White as duly elected, but that Member was returned also for Rye, and elected to sit for that borough, so that the whole petition, so far as it concerned the actual representation of East Grinstead, was quite a useless one.

1640. Richard, Lord Buckhurst, and Robert Goodwin.

There seems to have been a complaint about this election also, for on Nov. 16th the Committee of Privileges reported that Lord Buckhurst was well

elected and well returned to serve for East Grinstead, and ought to be admitted to sit. On Dec. 24th a similar report was presented in regard to Mr. Goodwin. Accordingly they were called to their seats. This was the memorable "Long Parliament," which met on Nov. 30th, 1640. The Civil War broke out on Aug. 22nd, 1642, and on Jan. 30th, 1648-9, Charles I. was beheaded, but the Parliament, or such as remained of it, for its Members were less than 100 in number, continued sitting until it was personally expelled by Cromwell on April 20th, 1653. Lord Richard was a Royalist, who afterwards became fifth Earl of Dorset. He was born Sept. 16th, 1622, so was only 18 when returned for East Grinstead. When the Civil War broke out he joined the King's forces and on Sept. 12th, 1645, was disabled for continuously absenting himself from the service of the House. After Cromwell's death he became the leader of the Royal party and was one of those mainly instrumental in bringing about the peaceful restoration of the Monarchy.

1645, Oct. 10th. John Baker.

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This was the by-election held to fill the vacancy caused by the disablement of Lord Buckhurst. There was at this time trouble about the office of Bailiff of East Grinstead. Mr. Cole and Mr. Bowyer both claimed to hold the position; the former returned Mr. Pickering as Member, the latter Mr. Baker. In February of the following year the matter came before the House, and it was decided that Mr. Cole had no claim to the office of Bailiff; that Mr. Bowyer had, and that therefore Mr. Baker was the proper person to sit for East Grinstead.

1653. In this year the "Barebones" Parliament assembled, but it does not appear that East Grinstead was represented therein. Cromwell called together an assembly of 140 nominees, "men faithful, fearing God and hating covetousness." This Parliament soon voluntarily resigned. Cromwell now became Lord Protector, and called his first real Parliament to meet on September 3rd, 1654. This was dissolved without passing

a single Act. Cromwell's second Parliament met in 1656 and his third in 1658, and the records of the representation of East Grinstead again become obtainable.

1658-9. Sir Robert Goodwin and George Courthope.

This Parliament met on Jan. 27th, dissolved itself on March 16th, 1659-60, and issued writs for a new Parliament to meet on April 25th, 1660, which assembly called back King Charles II. to the throne.

George Courthope was a man of considerable repute in his day, and his descendants still occupy honoured positions in this county. He wrote his autobiography, and from a manuscript copy of it, the only one known, in Mr. Courthope's library at Whiligh, the following particulars are taken. He was born in 1616, and was the only son of Sir George Courthope, of Whiligh, Ticehurst, a Commissioner of the Alienation Office. This Commissionership was held by a long and unbroken succession of Courthopes, the first of whom was appointed by Queen Elizabeth, while the last held the post until the abolition of the office in the reign of George III. After spending some time at the Merchant Taylors' and Westminster Schools, young Courthope went to Oxford, and on leaving the University joined the suite of the Earl of Leicester, who was then on his way to France to take up the post of English Ambassador at the French Court. But, in consequence of an accident, Courthope had to leave the party before Paris was reached. In time he resumed his travels and made a long tour through Switzerland, Italy and other countries bordering on the Mediterranean. At Mitylene he was arrested on a charge of investigating, too closely, the fortifications of that island, but judicious—and judicial—bribery secured his early release. While at Constantinople he got news of his father's serious illness and hastened home, arriving on Christmas Eve, 1641, in time to see his father before he died at their house in Leadenhall Street, London. This fine old mansion was only demolished about 20 years ago, and the site is now occupied by the spacious range of buildings known as Africa House. This is still the property

of the family, and came to them, together with other houses and land on which now stands a great part of Liverpool Street Station, when the subject of this notice married Elizabeth Hawes, a daughter of his father's second wife by her first husband. On his father's death he hurried to the North of England to interview Charles I., to whom his uncle, Mr. John Courthope, was a gentleman-in-waiting, and managed to secure from the King, on payment to His Majesty of £1,300, the appointment to the Alienation Commissionership, which had been held by his father and grandfather. During the Protectorate he was summoned to appear before Cromwell's Council on a charge of having supplied the King and his family with money, and the charge was, no doubt, to an extent, true, but the trial was adjourned *sine die* and never completed. On the restoration of Charles II. he was present at the great banquet given by the King at Windsor Castle, being in attendance on the Earl of Northumberland, Lord Lieutenant of Sussex. That same morning he received the honour of knighthood, and the King remitted the fee of £100 usually demanded from those raised to this dignity, and also granted Sir George pardon for having sat as M.P. for East Grinstead in the Protectorate Parliament. Sir George subsequently sat in several Parliaments for Sussex constituencies and finally resigned in consequence of severe illness. His death occurred at Whiligh in 1685, and a mural tablet, with a Latin inscription, in Ticehurst Church, commemorates a man of considerable talent and a loyal servant of his King.

1661, March 28th. Charles, Lord Buckhurst, and George Courthope.

Lord Buckhurst, who became sixth Earl of Dorset, was born on Jan. 24th, 1637. He was elected to Parliament for East Grinstead soon after the restoration of Charles II., with whom, by reason of his courtly manners, generous nature and sprightly wit, he became a great favourite, being appointed a gentleman of the bedchamber. He saw some active service against the Dutch and went on several embassies to France. He was made Baron of Cranfield and Earl of Middlesex in

1675, and went to the House of Lords, a new writ being issued for East Grinstead, for which town he was then Member, on April 4th of that year. On the accession of James II. he withdrew from the Court, being strongly opposed to many of the stringent measures directed against the Protestants. He was one of those mainly instrumental in placing the Prince of Orange on the throne, and he got his immediate reward by being made Lord Chamberlain of the Household to King William. On Feb. 3rd, 1691, he was created a Knight of the Garter. He died at Bath, Jan. 19th, 1705-6, and a month later was buried at Withyham.

1678. Capt. Edward Sackville.

This Member was son of Richard, Earl of Dorset, and he died while representing East Grinstead. He was buried at Withyham on Oct. 18th, 1678, and a new writ was issued for East Grinstead on the 28th of the same month.

1678-9, Feb. 14th. Thomas Pelham and Henry Powle.

This election seems to indicate the existence of a family quarrel between some members of the Sackville family. Richard, Earl of Dorset, died on August 27th, 1677, and left a widow, Frances. In 1687 Henry Powle appears as owner of the Manor of Imberhorne "*jure uxoris*, Frs. Countess of Dorset," he having married the Dowager Countess. The marriage was apparently ignored by the Sackville family, for at her death she was buried as "The Rt. Honble. Frances Countess Dowager of Dorset, wife to the Rt. Honble. Richard Earl of Dorset," her relationship to Mr. Powle being unmentioned. The Dorset nominees at this election would appear to have been Thomas Pelham and Edward Sackville. They were opposed by Henry Powle and William Scroggs. The bailiff returned the two former as duly elected. It was in this year that the terms Whig and Tory first came into use. On March 18th, 1678-9, as soon as Parliament met, several of the inhabitants of East Grinstead complained that there had been an undue return at this election and that Henry

Powle should have been one of the burgesses returned for the Borough. At the same time William Scroggs complained that he ought to have been returned in the place of Edward Sackville. Both petitions were referred to the Committee of Privileges and Elections, and on April 7th following the report of this Committee on the subject was presented to the House. The great question at issue was whether the inhabitants at large or the burgage holders only had the right of election. Records from the reigns of Mary, Elizabeth, James I. and Charles I. were produced, setting forth that the returns of Members were made by "The Bailiff, Burgesses and all other the Inhabitants," or words to that effect, and a number of witnesses were examined to bear out the same contention. Mr. Robert Goodwin, a former M.P. for East Grinstead, who said he had known the Borough for 60 years, averred that he was always elected by the inhabitants as well as the burgage holders. Thomas Cockett said he was never a burgage holder, but he voted for Mr. Goodwin 40 years before. At this actual election it appeared some 60 inhabitants voted for Mr. Powle and no more than 18 for anyone else, but the Bailiff declined to return him. Counsel on both sides agreed that the inhabitants as well as burgage holders had a right to elect, but as Mr. Scroggs had not petitioned against the return of Mr. Pelham his petition was practically rejected, and the Committee decided that Mr. Powle should have been returned instead of Mr. Sackville. The House adopted this view and decided to amend the return, which was accordingly done on April 14th, 1679. But Henry Powle "had something up his sleeve." Had the petition gone against him he would still have been an M.P., for he was also elected for Cirencester, and immediately the House had amended the return and he had ousted Mr. Sackville, he declared his intention of sitting for Cirencester, so a new writ had to be issued for East Grinstead, and this was done on the very same day as the Bailiff's return was amended. Henry Powle was a man of high repute. In regard to his subsequent career we need to look a few years ahead. The first and only Parliament of James II.

was a packed one. It was prorogued in 1685 and finally dissolved in 1687. The King, in the meanwhile, tried to get together a Parliament of Catholics and Nonconformists, but he failed, and for the remainder of his reign there was no Parliament in England. When the Prince of Orange came over, the Convention which had invited William and Mary to occupy the throne changed itself into a Parliament without an election. It was first summoned to meet on January 22nd, 1688-9, at 9 a.m., and as soon as the Members had gathered the Earl of Wiltshire rose and said, "There is an honourable person in my eye whom I conceive very well experienced in methods of Parliament and in every way qualified for the Speaker's place." He thereupon proposed the former Member for East Grinstead and the proposition was unanimously agreed to. Mr. Powle begged the House to choose some more worthy person, but his excuse was not allowed and he continued as Speaker until a new Parliament met on March 20th, 1689-90, when he was succeeded by Sir John Trevor.

There were apparently at this time about 33 burgage holders and their names are set forth in the following copy of a parchment document still in existence:—

#### EASTGRINSTED BURROUGH.

A Rental of the Lords rent of the said Burrough, due and payable to the Right Honorable the Countess of Dorsett, from the yeare 1678 to thy present yeare 1683.

	£	s.	d.
Edward Payne, Esqr., five burg <sup>es</sup> and six portlands . . . .	00	02	09
Andrew Ledger, one burgage . . . . .	00	00	03
William Relfe, one burgage, one portland . . . . .	00	00	06
William Austen, one burgage, one portland . . . . .	00	00	06
Robert Mathew, Jun., two burg <sup>es</sup> , two portlands . . . . .	00	01	00
Richard Page, two burgages, two portlands . . . . .	00	01	00
Jarvas Thorp, one burgage, one portland . . . . .	00	00	06
William Taylor, one burgage, one portland . . . . .	00	00	06
Tobyas Shewin, one burgage, one portland . . . . .	00	00	06
Widd Moore, one burgage, one portland . . . . .	00	00	06
John Butching, one burgage, one portland . . . . .	00	00	06
Thomas Cooper, one burgage, one portland . . . . .	00	00	06
James Levett, two burgages, eleven portlands . . . . .	00	03	03
Henry Brasted, one burgage . . . . .	00	00	03
Widd Elmer, one burgage . . . . .	00	00	03



	£	s.	d.
Thomas Broomley, one burgage .....	00	00	03
James Linfeild, three burgages, fower portlands .....	00	01	09
John Bodle, two burgages, two portlands .....	00	01	00
Alexander Luxford, Gent., one burgage .....	00	00	03
Robert Wickersham, one burgage .....	00	00	03
Thomas Wood, one burgage .....	00	00	03
Jeremy Johnson, Gent., one burgage .....	00	00	03
Bryan Walton, Esqre., 4 burg <sup>es</sup> , 5 portlands .....	00	02	03
The Occupiers of Mr. Does, 2 burg <sup>es</sup> and 2 portlands ..	00	01	00
William Coster, 2 burgages, 4 portlands.....	00	01	06
James Blott, one burgage .....	00	00	03
William Putland and Tho. Piggot, one burgage .....	00	00	03
Johu Butchingson, 2 burgages, 2 portlands .....	00	01	00
John Underhill, two burgages, two portlands.....	00	01	00
William Langridg, One burgage, one port .....	00	00	06
William Butching, 2 burgages, 2 portlands .....	00	01	00
Edward Payne, Gent., one burg, one port .....	00	00	06

There are 29 other entries of cottagers paying 2d. each, but the occupation of these did not confer the privilege of voting. The total rental was £1. 14s. 11d.

The manorial rent for each burgage was, therefore, threepence and for a portland the same. The portlands were small fields or portions of the common-land of the Borough allotted to burgages in much the same way as common rights of pasture on Ashdown Forest were allotted to estates in East Grinstead and other parishes. The Portland Road in East Grinstead is so named because some early deeds of that estate show that some of the portlands were there situate. It ought properly to be called Portlands Road, its present name suggesting that it had something to do with the Portland family, which is not the case.

1679, Aug. 19th. The Hon. Goodwyn Wharton and William Jephson.

The Hon. Goodwyn Wharton was no doubt connected with Lord Wharton, whose descendant, Philip Wharton, was created Duke of Wharton, January 20th, 1718, but was attainted for joining the Chevalier, and all the family honours died with him. Goodwyn Wharton was appointed by James II. one of the Lords of the Admiralty.

William Jephson belonged to Mallow and was connected with the well-known Jephson family of Froyle, in Hampshire, ancestors of the present holders of the Jephson baronetage.

1680-1, Feb. 11th. Sir Cyril Wyche and Henry Powle.

This Parliament last met in 1681 at Oxford, but only for a week, and was not called together again during the reign of Charles II.

1684-5, March 19th. Simon Smith and Thomas Jones.

On May 23rd, 1685, John Conyers complained to Parliament of the undue election of these two Members, but nothing was done in the matter.

1688-9. Sir Thomas Dyke, Bart., and Thomas Sackville.

This was the Convention which called William of Orange to the throne and afterwards formed itself into a Parliament.

The Dyke family belonged to Horeham, Sussex, and were owners of the Star Inn and of the "two burgages formerly called the New Inn, *alias* The Ounce, afterwards 'The Cat and then called The Dorset,'" the famous old house not being so last named until the Sackville family acquired the freehold from Sir John Dixon Dyke, the third Baronet, and who married a Miss Jane Philadelphia Payne Horne, of East Grinstead. This lady was the daughter of Mr. George Horne, of London, banker, who is buried in the chancel of East Grinstead Church (1738), under a stone engraved with his name and coat of arms. This Mr. Horne had married Philadelphia, daughter of Edwd. Payne, of East Grinstead (1662-1713) and half-sister of Chas. Payne, of East Grinstead and Newick (1707-1734), whose monument may also be seen on the walls of the chancel of our Parish Church, so that old John Payne, of Pixtons, in East Grinstead, who died in 1507 and whose will is set out in the chapter dealing with the church history, may claim amongst his many other lineal descendants the present representative of the Hart Dyke family. Sir Thomas, the Member for East

Grinstead, succeeded his father as Baronet on March 3rd, 1677, and died October 21st, 1706.

Thomas Sackville belonged to Sedlescombe, near Battle, and in 1688, replying to the test questions, stated that he was for liberty of conscience and was prepared to support the King's declaration and to live friendly with those of all persuasions as subjects of the same Prince and as good Christians ought to do.

This election was petitioned against by John Conyers, and the question as to who really had the right to vote was again fully gone into. Witnesses were called on either side, some averring that the inhabitants generally had often voted, others that only burgage holders had done so. The Committee came to the conclusion that the privilege did not rest with the latter only, and that John Conyers, and not Sir Thomas Dyke, should have been declared elected; but the House disagreed with the report and Sir Thomas retained the seat.

1689-90, Feb. 25th. Thomas Sackville and Sir Thomas Dyke, Bart.

Thomas Sackville died while still Member, and a new writ was issued on January 5th, 1692-3.

1692-3, Jan. 18th. Simon Smith.

Smith died before Parliament was dissolved and a new writ was issued on Feb. 2nd, 1694-5.

1694-5, Feb. 26th. Rt. Hon. Lyonell, Earl of Orrery and Baron of Broghill.

In reference to this by-election the Steward's accounts to Charles, Duke of Dorset, contain the following entries:—

Charge of electing my Lord Orrery a Burgess for the Borough of East Grinstead on Mr. Smith's death as by bills .....	£0044	05	10
To the Ringers in Beer x <sup>s</sup> .....	0000	10	00
To Mr. Jodrell for the Speaker's order 06 <sup>s</sup> 8 <sup>d</sup> . Secretary Blan for the Warrant x <sup>s</sup> . Ld. Keeper's Secretary for the Writt a Guinea being then xxv <sup>s</sup> . To the Sheriffe for the precept xl <sup>s</sup> . To the Solicitor for his fee and often attending xx <sup>s</sup> .....	0005	01	08
in all			

Lord Orrery was connected with the Dorset family, being the son of Roger, second Earl Orrery, by his marriage with Lady Mary Sackville, daughter of Richard, fifth Earl of Dorset. He died August 24th, 1703, and was buried at Withyham.

1695, Nov. 19th. Sir Thomas Dyke, Bart., and John Conyers.

Four days before this election the leading residents of East Grinstead were entertained at supper at the expense of the Earl of Dorset, the meal costing him £10. 16s. 6d., a fair sum over 200 years ago. The "bribe," however, seems to have been ineffectual, for the Dorset nominees were defeated. They were Lord Orrery and Sir Spencer Compton. John Conyers, who was son-in-law to Robert Goodwin, the Covenanter and a former M.P. for East Grinstead, had evidently taken a considerable part in the public life of the town. He owned Mill Place and Pickstones (? Pixton Hill), but is described as living at Walthamstow. Ten years before his election he had petitioned Parliament as to the right of the inhabitants to vote, and he again went before them on the same grounds in 1688. Lord Orrery petitioned Parliament on Nov. 25th, 1695, that John Jenner, the bailiff of East Grinstead, had refused to admit several good votes, and that Sir Thomas Dyke and John Conyers were declared wrongfully elected. At the same time Spencer Compton presented a petition setting forth that the Bailiff arbitrarily returned the two Members named, though the petitioner had a majority of legal electors voting for him. Both the petitions were referred to the Committee of Privileges, as was also another petition from the inhabitants of East Grinstead, presented four days later. On this occasion the matter seems to have been more fully gone into than ever before. Numerous witnesses were examined and some interesting side-lights were thrown on the conduct of elections in those days. A man named Ledger swore that when Sir Thos. Dyke canvassed him, just before the election, he pulled out a handful of money and said he would do the voter quite as much kindness as Mr. Compton would, while a canvasser named Payne offered him "the

running of a horse" if he would vote for Sir Thomas. The other side seems to have gone one better. Thomas Pollard's evidence was this:—

Mr. Packer desired his vote for the Earl of Orrery and Mr. Compton and promised to be a good friend to him, and told him Sir Thomas Dyke had been in the House a good while and had done no good, and that he was a Jacobite and kept a Jesuit in his house, and that he would not be suffered to sit in the House.

All this seemed to trouble Pollard very little and he intimated that Sir Thomas would have his vote, whereupon Packer threatened him with a "stone-doublet" (*i.e.*, imprisonment) and carried it into effect, for three days before the election he was arrested, confined for a period and then let out without any charge, apparently, being brought against him. Another canvasser, named Percivall, seems to have been very active. He offered to treat Pollard to a trip to London to get him out of the way and he told Jeremy Johnson that if Sir Thomas Dyke was elected he would not be allowed to sit, for he knew the House was going to turn him and fifty-nine other Members out again. Another active agent was Robert Bodell, who, before the election, warned the tradesmen that if they disobliged "my Lord of Dorset they should be troubled with soldiers and lose the Assizes." When the fight was over he told the same people that he had the order of the Lord Chamberlain to stop the pensions of Widow Taylor and Widow Jenner, because some persons had voted for the sitting Members. Another man was heard to declare that if he voted for the Dorset nominees "he could have a place for his mother in the College of £8 a year," and he estimated this was worth £100 to him. The Committee came to the conclusion that the right of election rested with the burgage holders only, but that Sir Thomas Dyke and John Conyers had been duly elected. The general question was forced to a division in the House and the Committee's resolution was confirmed by 221 votes to 128.

1698, July 25th. Lyonell, Earl of Orrery, and John Conyers.

1700-1, Jan. 7th. John Conyers and Mathew Pryor.

Matthew Prior rose from the ranks to become a famous poet and diplomatist. He was born at Wimborne Minster, in Dorset, on July 21st, 1664, and was the son of a joiner. On the death of his father an uncle got him up to London and sent him for a time to Westminster School, but soon took him from there and set him to work in a tavern which he owned near Charing Cross. The Earl of Dorset was there one day with some friends when a dispute arose concerning the meaning of a particular passage in Horace. Young Prior was called in and soon satisfactorily solved the difficulty. Finding he was a studious youth the Earl of Dorset took him under his protection and on April 2nd, 1683, sent him to St. John's College, Cambridge. Here he remained for five years and was then appointed Secretary to the English delegates at the Hague Congress. He became Gentleman of His Majesty's Bedchamber to William of Orange and was made Secretary for the English negotiations in settling the Treaty of Ryswick. In the same year he became Principal Secretary of State in Ireland, and the next he was made Secretary to the British Embassy in Paris. On being elected for East Grinstead he was made one of the Lords of Trade, and subsequently Chief Commissioner of Customs. In settling affairs with France, after the termination of the war, he took a leading part and in course of time became our Ambassador in Paris. The Earl of Stair succeeded him and when Mr. Prior arrived in England on March 25th, 1715, he was immediately arrested and a month later was ordered into close custody and no person admitted to see him without leave of the Speaker. He was imprisoned, without trial, in his own house for two years, the complaint against him being his supposed share in the treaty of Utrecht. On his release he published, by subscription, an edition of his poems, which brought him the handsome sum of 4,000 guineas, doubled by the generous gift of his friend, Lord Harley, son of the Earl of Oxford, at whose house, at Wimpole, in Cambridgeshire, Prior died on September 18th, 1721. He was buried in Poet's Corner, Westminster Abbey,

where a monument was afterwards erected to his memory by order of the King of France. He was a pleasing poet, remarkable for his skill in versification, though many of his pieces border on the indecent.

1701, Nov. 24th. Lyonell, Earl of Orrery, and John Conyers.

1702, July 17th. John Conyers and John Toke, of Godinton, Kent.

John Toke was born in 1671, and married Susannah, daughter of Rev. Daniel Miles, D.D., of Crutched Friars, London. He died in 1746 and was connected by marriage with the Paynes of East Grinstead, the wife of Edward Payne, already referred to, being Miss Elizabeth Toke, of Godinton.

1705, May 11th. John Conyers and John Toke.

1708, May 5th. Richard Lumley and Henry Campion.

Henry Campion, of Combwell Priory, Kent, was the first of the name to occupy the Danny Estate at Hurstpierpoint. This property had been for many years in the possession of the Courthope family, and it came to the Campions when this Member for East Grinstead married Barbara, daughter and sole heiress of Peter Courthope.

John Conyers was this time a defeated candidate, and he petitioned Parliament that he had a majority of votes and ought to have been returned, but the admitting of "double voices for one and the same burgage-hold," and permitting others to vote who had no right, and by threats and other undue practices, Henry Campion, he alleged, was returned. Parliament decided to have the matter threshed out at the bar of the House, but before it came on for hearing John Conyers withdrew his petition.

1710, Oct. 7th. John Conyers and Leonard Gale.

Leonard Gale was of humble origin, but rose to become a very wealthy man and M.P. for East Grinstead. He was the grandson of a blacksmith at Sevenoaks, and his father managed to save up enough money to start a forge at Tinsley, in Worth, where, in the flourishing days of

the Sussex iron industry, he amassed a considerable fortune and left a decent property to his son Leonard. This young fellow soon after purchased Crabbett, giving for house, land and timber £9,000. He had been called to the bar, but he gave up all idea of practice in order to devote himself to the management of his Sussex estates. He married Mrs. Sarah Knight, his "mother's sister's only daughter," at Charlwood, on August 19th, 1703. By the time he was 52 years of age he estimated he was worth £40,667. One of his aunts married the Rev. Henry Woodward, Vicar of East Grinstead. He was elected Member of Parliament for this Borough, as he tells us, "without expense or opposition," and he has left on record this scathing denunciation of the electioneering tactics then in vogue:—

We have seen of late innumerable instances of the power of bribes and threats in the election of Members to Parliament. Men have deserted their old friends and neighbours to whom they have been pledged every day of their lives, and gone over to strangers they never saw or heard of, who come with money in their hands and empty promises in their mouths, to the eternal scandal of the whole nation, from the highest to the lowest, whereby our lands and liberties are, and must be, precarious, and our so much boasted privilege of having free Parliaments utterly lost; for this is an observation founded on the greatest truth, that he who will buy his seat in Parliament will sell his vote, and to what misery and poverty such men will soon bring this nation God only knows!

Leonard Gale died in 1750 and was buried at Worth Church. Mr. W. S. Blunt, the present owner of Crabbett, is a lineal descendant. Leonard Gale also owned Sheperds and Scarletts, in East Grinstead.

1713, Aug. 28th. Spencer Compton and John Conyers.

Spencer Compton was the son of James, third Earl of Northampton, and rose to positions of the highest possible importance in the State. He was Chairman of the Committee of Privileges and Elections, and at the assembly of the first Parliament of George I., on March 17th, 1714-5, he was unanimously elected Speaker of the House of Commons, being described by one of his proposers as "descended of a very noble and honourable family, in all times famous for their steady adherence to



the constitution in Church and State and for their inviolable loyalty to a deserving Master." He was re-elected to office in the next Parliament and held the position for 13 years. He was subsequently Paymaster-General of the Forces and Treasurer of Chelsea Hospital. On January 11th, 1728, he was raised to the peerage as Baron Wilmington and in 1730 was made Lord Privy Seal and advanced to the dignity of Viscount Pevensey and Earl of Wilmington. He was next made Lord President of the Council and a Knight of the Garter. He was one of the Lords Justices during the King's absence in Hanover and was also one of the Governors of Charter House. On the accession of George II. he was named by the King as Prime Minister, but he did not take this office until February 11th, 1742, holding it until his death on July 4th, 1743. He died unmarried and all his honours became extinct, his estates passing to his nephew, James Compton, fifth Earl of Northampton, and subsequently to the Dukes of Devonshire. He was owner of the house in this town in which Mr. George Bankin, the lawyer, lived and sold it to Lord Geo. Sackville.

1714-5, Jan. 28th. Spencer Compton and John Conyers.

1721-2, March 21st. Spencer Compton and John Conyers.

John Conyers died while still Member for East Grinstead and a new writ was issued on March 22nd, 1724.

1727, Aug. 19th. Richard, Lord Viscount Shannon, and Henry, Lord Viscount Palmerston.

Viscount Shannon was the second holder of this title. He was a grandson of Francis, fourth son of Richard Boyle, commonly called "The great Earl of Cork." He died in 1740, when the title of Viscount Shannon became extinct.

Henry Temple, born in 1673, was the first Viscount Palmerston. His father was Speaker of the Irish House of Commons and his great grandson, the third and last Viscount Palmerston, the famous Prime Minister and statesman of the early years of Victoria's reign. This M.P. for East Grinstead, when only seven years old, was made, with Luke King, Joint Remembrancer of the Court

of Exchequer in Ireland. When Charles II. died the post was renewed to him and his son for their lives, and as it was worth £2,000 a year it was a very snug position for an "infant." On March 12th, 1722, he was raised to the peerage of Ireland as Baron Temple and Viscount Palmerston. He sat in the English House of Commons from 1727 to 1734 and died at Chelsea on June 10th, 1757.

1734, April 26th. Charles Sackville, Earl of Middlesex, and Edward Conyers.

The Earl of Middlesex was Governor of Walmer Castle, and afterwards became the second Duke of Dorset. He was for a long time Master of the Horse to Frederick, Prince of Wales.

1741, May 5th. The Earl of Middlesex and Whistler Webster.

The Earl of Middlesex accepted office in the following January as Steward of His Majesty's Honour of Otford, Kent, and thus vacated the seat. Whistler Webster afterwards became Sir Whistler Webster, Bart., of Battle Abbey. He married Miss Nairne, daughter of the Dean of Battle and a relative of Mr. Charles Nairne Hastie, of Place Land, East Grinstead, who used sometimes to stay at Battle Abbey and knew Isaac Ingall, the old butler, who died there in 1798 (as appears from the Court Rolls of the Manor of Battel) at the remarkable age of 120 years. There are many people who can remember Mr. C. N. Hastie, and it thus follows that they knew one who often conversed with a man born in 1678, so that the record of three such lives covers a period of no less than 12 reigns in English history. The Websters were formerly considerable owners of property in East Grinstead. Among their possessions were the Crown Inn, the Chequer Mead, the Friday Mead, the Hipps Mead, part of the Middle Row (originally built on the Lord's waste) and some half-dozen burgages, all of which were purchased of Sir Godfrey Webster, by Lord George Sackville.

1741-2, Jan. 23rd. John Butler.

1747, July 1st. Whistler Webster and Sir Sidney Stafford Smythe.

The latter Member is said to have been "The ugliest man of his day." He was born in 1705, was called to the

Bar in 1728, in 1740 was made Steward of the Court of the King's Palace at Westminster, in 1747 was made a K.C., and at the general election in that year was returned to Parliament for East Grinstead. While still Member he was made a Baron of the Court of Exchequer, and a new writ was issued for the Borough in consequence on January 17th, 1750. The new judge was knighted before the year closed and became Lord Chief Baron on October 28th, 1772, but resigned three years later in consequence of infirmities, and died on November 2nd, 1778. His wife was a daughter of Sir Charles Farnaby, and they both took very great interest in the Evangelical movement.

1750, Jan. 22nd. The Hon. Joseph Yorke.

The Hon. Joseph Yorke was the third son of the first Earl of Hardwicke, Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain. He was elected for East Grinstead when about 25 years of age, was afterwards knighted, rose to high rank in the army and was aide-de-camp to H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland at the battle of Fontenoy. He was elevated to the peerage as Baron Dover, from which town the family emanated, on September 18th, 1788, but he married very late in life, and having no family the title died with him.

1754, April 19th. The Hon. Joseph Yorke and Sir Whistler Webster, Bart.

1761, March 31st. Charles Sackville, Earl of Middlesex, and Lord George Sackville.

The Earl of Middlesex became Duke of Dorset while still a Member, and on his going to the House of Lords a new writ was issued in December, 1765. The latter Member was also returned for Hythe, for which constituency he elected to sit, and a new writ was issued for East Grinstead December 1st, 1761.

1761, Dec. 8th. Sir Thomas Hales, Bart.

Sir Thomas belonged to Bekesbourne, in Kent. He died the following year and a new writ was issued November 25th, 1762.

1762, Nov. 30th. John Irwine.

This Member afterwards became the Rt. Hon. Sir J. Irwine, Major-General of the Forces.

1765, Dec. 30. Sir Chas. Farnaby, Bart., of Sevenoaks.

1768, March 18th. Lord George Sackville and Major-Gen. Irwine.

At this election boroughs were openly bought and sold, the price for the right to represent a small borough being £4,000, and Pitt declared that the House elected represented, not the nation, but "ruined towns, noble families, wealthy individuals and foreign potentates."

Lord George Sackville was born on January 26th, 1715-16, and assumed the surname of Germaine, in compliance with Lady Elizabeth Germaine's will, by which he inherited a considerable fortune, in 1770. Long before this time he had acquired a world-wide reputation in consequence of his trial, at his own request, for disobedience to orders at the battle of Minden, fought on August 1st, 1759. In this struggle the French were beaten by British and Hanoverian troops and the victory practically ended the seven years' war. It is memorable as having been the only known occasion on which infantry charged through and destroyed more than their own number of cavalry. The allied forces were commanded by Prince Ferdinand of Prussia and Lord George served under him as commander-in-chief of the British cavalry of the right wing. The allegation against him was that, when told to advance his brigade, he neglected to immediately comply and so jeopardised the safety of the infantry. It appeared that two aides-de-camp took different orders to him and Lord George's defence was that, in the confusion thus caused, he did what he considered best. Though the battle was won Prince Ferdinand reported Lord George to the King, he was recalled, tried, convicted and judged "unfit to serve His Majesty in any military capacity whatever." He was a man of great educational attainments and one of those credited with writing "the letters of Junius," a most elaborate book being published with a view to proving this contention. Though his career as a soldier was thus cut short, he afterwards rendered great services to his

country as a politician. He filled some of the highest offices in the State, being for many years Secretary for the American department prior to the war of independence. He was elevated to the Peerage on February 11th, 1782, as Baron Bolebrook and Viscount Sackville and died October 10th, 1795. He lived at Stoneland Lodge, Sussex, and was the owner of much of the Sackville property situate within the Borough, and according to an Act passed on May 6th, 1811, for vesting the estate in trustees, it comprised 33 distinct tenancies, let at rents amounting to £467. 15s. per annum.

1774, Oct. 10th. Lord George Germaine (Sackville) and Lt.-Gen. Irwine.

1775, Nov. 15th. Lord George Germaine (Sackville).

This was a by-election consequent on Lord George being made one of the Principal Secretaries of State and having to seek re-election.

1780, Sept. 8th. Lord George Germaine (Sackville) and Lt.-Gen. Sir John Irwine.

Lord George was made a peer during this Parliament, and a new writ was issued for East Grinstead, February 12th, 1782. Sir John Irwine was Colonel of the 57th Regiment of Foot, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Ireland, and a Privy Councillor of that kingdom. He accepted the Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds, and a new writ was issued April 25th, 1783.

1782, Feb. 19th. Henry Arthur Herbert.

1783, May 3rd. George Medley.

This Member was the owner of several local properties, including "The Chequer Inn," subsequently named "The Dorset Head," and two fields called "Pigeon House or Slaughter House" and "Play-field," let to the then Vicar for £12. 15s. a year. These were sold to Lord George Sackville, of Minden fame. Medley also owned Buxted Place, Friston Place and Coneyboro' Park, all in this county, acquiring these properties on the deaths of his three elder brothers. His father was Thomas Medley and his mother a daughter of Sir Samuel Dashwood, Lord Mayor of London, and granddaughter of John

Smith, Speaker of the House of Commons. He was in business as a wine merchant at Lisbon when the great earthquake of 1755 occurred and sustained severe losses in consequence of it. He was M.P. for Seaford, 1768 to 1780, and for East Grinstead from 1783 to 1790. He had no children and all his estates passed to his niece, Lady Shuckburgh Evelyn, only daughter and sole heiress of James Evelyn, of Felbridge, by his first wife, Annabella Medley. His only daughter by his second wife was accidentally burnt to death.

1784, Nov. 30th. Henry Arthur Herbert and George Medley.

Herbert accepted the Chiltern Hundreds Stewardship, and a new writ was issued February 24th, 1786.

1786, March 3rd. Lt.-Gen. James Cunninghame.

This Member died in October, 1788, and the Speaker issued a new writ during the recess.

1788, Oct. 8th. The Rt. Hon. Lt.-Gen. Robert Cunninghame.

This Member accepted the Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds, and a new writ was issued February 20th, 1789.

1789, Feb. 27th. Richard Ford, of the Inner Temple.

1790, June 18th. Nathaniel Dance, of Carnborough, near Winchester, and William Nisbet, of Portman Square, London.

The first-named famous, but somewhat eccentric, representative was born in London in 1734, of a family that possessed artistic talent. His father, George Dance, was the architect of the Mansion House, London, and also of several city churches. Nathaniel was for some time in Italy, from whence he sent to England pictures, chiefly of classical subjects. While here he fell in love with Angelica Kauffman, and persistently followed her, renewing his matrimonial offers again and again. But that famous lady would have nothing to do with him, so he at last returned to England, and some years later consoled himself by marrying a widow named Mrs. Dummer, who brought him a fortune of some £18,000 a year. He had himself, by this time, amassed considerable wealth. He

was one of the founders of the Royal Academy and his portraits were in great request. The most famous of his pictures was "David Garrick as King Richard III." After his marriage he dropped his profession and became Member of Parliament for East Grinstead from 1790 to 1801. He changed his name, and when made a Baronet in 1800 appeared as Sir Nathaniel Dance Holland. It is reported that his head was turned; he withdrew from the Academy, bought up all his pictures he could lay his hands on, and burned them without a qualm. Perhaps he was a good critic. He died suddenly at Carnborough, on October 15th, 1811, leaving a fortune of £200,000. A new writ was issued for East Grinstead during the Christmas recess.

1796, May 25th. Nathaniel Dance and James Strange, of Hertford Street, Mayfair, London.

This was the first Imperial Parliament of the United Kingdom.

1802, July 7th. Sir Henry Strachey, Bart., of Rooksnest, Tandridge, and Daniel Giles, of Lincoln's Inn, London, and Youngsbury, Hertford.

The voting at this election was: Strachey and Giles, nine each; John Frost, one. The two elected were the nominees of the Duchess of Dorset, who at this time controlled 29 out of the 36 burghage tenements. The defeated candidate petitioned against the return, as also did Mr. T. Burt, Mr. John Turley, after whom Mr. F. Maplesden's house in Ship Street is named, and others. John Frost alleged that a considerable majority of the show of hands was in his favour, but when he demanded a poll Mr. Geo. Bankin, senior, the bailiff, said "a poll for the Borough of East Grinstead was unusual and uncustomary." After some hesitation, however, it was granted, and at the poll Mr. Frost alleged the Bailiff accepted several "illegal, split and occasional votes" for the returned Members. He also alleged that the candidates, their friends and agents were guilty of many "undue, illegal, unwarrantable and corrupt practices." A special committee of 49 members was elected by the

House on March 17th, 1803, to try the petition. An objection was first taken to Mr. Frost being heard, on the ground that he had been convicted in the Court of King's Bench of a libel on the Government, had been struck off the roll of attorneys and had been ordered to stand in the pillory, but though this sentence was passed it was never put into execution. Accordingly he was allowed to proceed, but the committee declared the sitting Members duly elected and that the petitions were frivolous and vexatious. It came out in evidence during the trial that the burgages were let at sums varying from 3d. to 1s. per annum, but not one of the voters who voted at this election had ever paid these quit rents or the land tax. The majority of the tenants had had to sign a declaration that they held as trustees of the Duchess of Dorset, and only two of them held their own title deeds. Very few of the voters lived in, or had any connection with, East Grinstead, being simply brought down to vote, fed and sent away again. The costs of this petition came to £706. 3s. 4d. and their recovery led to further lengthy suits, but in 1808, six years after the election, Messrs. Burt, Turley and those associated with them had to pay.

Sir Henry Strachey was born May 23rd, 1737. In 1764 he was private secretary to Lord Clive, subsequently Joint Secretary to the Treasury, one of the Under Secretaries of State and Master of the Household. He was created a Baronet on June 15th, 1801, and died January 3rd, 1810.

1806, Oct. 31st. Sir Henry Strachey, Bart., and Daniel Giles.

1807, May 8th. Sir Nathaniel Holland Bart. (previously named Dance), and Charles Rose Ellis, of Claremont, Surrey.

This was the last contested election for the Borough and it led to another petition. Only 19 electors polled and the defeated candidates were Sir George Wright, Bart., and Mr. Samuel Hill. They went before Parliament on July 10th and alleged that the Bailiff, Mr. George Bankin, had rejected legal votes tendered for them and received votes in favour of those returned from persons who had no right to vote, but they failed to



deposit the required security, so the petition was discharged 15 days after presentation.

Mr. Ellis, who afterwards became the first Lord Seaford, was a member of a wealthy West Indian family. He was born in 1771, and first entered Parliament when only 22, being returned for Heytesbury. His wife was the daughter and heiress of Lord Hervey and on July 8th, 1803, their son succeeded his great-grandfather, on the maternal side, in the Barony of Howard de Walden. Mr. Ellis was a strong supporter and friend of Canning's and was the acknowledged head of the West Indian interest. For some years he represented Seaford, but lost his seat for that town in 1806, and the following year was returned for East Grinstead. In 1826 Canning nominated him for a peerage and he was created Lord Seaford on July 16th. He died July 1st, 1845.

1812, Jan. 11th. Richard Wellesley, of Grosvenor Square, London.

This Member accepted the Chiltern Hundreds during the following year, and a new writ was issued March 3rd, 1812.

1812, March 9th. George William Gunning, of Horton, Northampton.

Mr. Gunning was the only son of Sir Robert Gunning, who was made a Baronet after serving as Minister-Plenipotentiary at the Courts of Denmark, Prussia and Russia. The Member for East Grinstead, who had also represented the Boroughs of Hastings and Wigan, succeeded to the baronetcy on September 22nd, 1816, and died on April 7th, 1823. He only sat for East Grinstead three months on this occasion, accepting the Chiltern Hundreds on June 1st, 1812.

1812, June 8th. Nicholas Vansittart, of Great George Street, Westminster.

This Member was a son of one of the Directors of the old East India Company and was born in 1766. When 30 years of age he was elected M.P. for Hastings, and early in 1801 was sent as Minister-Plenipotentiary to Copenhagen with a view of detaching that power from

the northern alliance, but his mission was a failure. On returning to England he was made Joint Secretary to the Treasury, three years later became Chief Secretary of Ireland and, after a while, again went back to the Treasury. In 1812 Lord Liverpool wanted a successor to Spencer Percival as Chancellor of the Exchequer, so Mr. Gunning resigned his seat for East Grinstead. Mr. Vansittart was elected in his stead and four days after his return for this Borough was appointed to the office named. During his tenure of it he carried through a conversion of the National Debt and the consolidation of the English and Irish Exchequers. He held the office for about eleven years and, on his resignation early in 1823, was raised to the Peerage by the title of Baron Bexley, a title which died with him. He continued to hold a seat in the Cabinet as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster until 1828. Lord Bexley occupied a very conspicuous position in the religious world. The late Mrs. O. A. Smith, of Hammerwood, East Grinstead, was related to this statesman.

1812, Oct. 8th. George William Gunning and James Stephen, of Great Ormond Street, London.

Stephen accepted the Chiltern Hundreds and a new writ was issued April 4th, 1815.

1815, April 14th. Sir George Johnston Hope, K.C.B.

Sir George was appointed a Rear-Admiral in the British Navy on August 1st, 1811, and subsequently became one of the Lords of the Admiralty. He died in 1818 and a new writ for East Grinstead was issued on May 4th.

1818, May 13th. The Rt. Hon. Charles Gordon, Lord Strathaven.

Charles, Lord Strathaven, who became 10th Marquess of Huntly, was the son and heir of George Gordon, 5th Earl of Aboyne, by his wife Catherine Anne, younger daughter and co-heir of Sir Charles Cope, 2nd Baronet, of Brewerne. He was born January 4th, 1792, and succeeded his father, who, in 1836, on the death of the last Duke of Gordon, had become 9th Marquess of Huntly, on June 17th, 1853. He married, firstly, Lady Elizabeth Conyngham, and, secondly, Maria Antoinette, daughter of

the Rev. P. W. Pegus and the Dowager Countess of Lindsey. He died September 18th, 1853.

1818, June 19th. Lord Strathaven and the Hon. Charles Cecil Cope Jenkinson.

This election afforded the rare instance of nephew and uncle being returned for the same constituency. The second of these Members afterwards became the third Earl of Liverpool. He was a son of the first Earl of Liverpool, his mother being a daughter of Sir Cecil Bishopp, Bart., of Parham, Sussex. He was a Page of Honour to George III., served in the Royal Navy 1794-7 and fought in several naval actions, including Lord Howe's victory of June 1st, 1794. He was afterwards attached to the Embassy at Vienna, and, later, fought at Austerlitz as a volunteer in the Austrian army. He held various posts as an Under Secretary of State in the Ministry of his brother, who was Prime Minister for 15 years. He was Lord Steward of the Household to Queen Victoria from 1841 to 1846, and died at Buxted on Oct. 3rd, 1851. He lived for a time at Felbridge Place, having acquired that property in 1810 by marriage with Julia, the only daughter of Sir George Augustus William Shuckburgh-Evelyn, a baronet distinguished for his scientific researches, and who married in 1785 Julia Annabella, daughter and sole heiress of James Evelyn, of Felbridge Place. Shuckburgh Cottage, in East Grinstead, is named after this nobleman, but the family belonged to Warwick, where it had been located for over eight centuries. The Member for East Grinstead, who became the third Earl of Liverpool, was also Baron Hawkesbury, and the latter title was revived in 1893, when his grandson, the Rt. Hon. Cecil George Savile Foljambe, was raised to the Peerage as Baron Hawkesbury, and the former in 1906, when he became Earl of Liverpool.

1820, March 9th. Lord Strathaven and the Hon. C. C. C. Jenkinson.

1826, June 9th. Lord Strathaven and the Hon. C. C. C. Jenkinson.

1829, Feb. 11th. The Rt. Hon. William Pitt Amherst, Lord Viscount Holmesdale.

This Member afterwards became Earl Amherst, and he lived to see East Grinstead, as a County Parliamentary

Division, again return its Member to Parliament in 1885. He died March 26th, 1886, aged 81.

1830, July 31st. Viscount Holmesdale and Frederick Richard West, of Ruthin Castle, Denbigh.

Mr. West was a grandson of John, second Earl De la Warr. He was born in 1799 and died May 1st, 1862.

1831, April 30th. Viscount Holmesdale and Frederick Richard West.

This was the last election for East Grinstead. Parliament was dissolved on December 3rd, 1832, and on that day the existence of the town as a Parliamentary Borough came to an abrupt termination. The Bailiff of East Grinstead was, *ex-officio*, the Returning Officer, and in 1831 Mr. Edward Cranston occupied this position. He was called on by Parliament to furnish a report, and this interesting document is dated December 23rd, 1831. In it Mr. Cranston stated that he believed the then number of electors was 36 and that at the last contested election in 1807 19 electors polled. In the town of East Grinstead there were then 131 houses, and about 50 of these were outside the old Borough. In the previous year these houses paid £21. 19s. 6d. in assessed taxes, and the total assessed taxes paid by the Borough amounted to £162. 5s. 3d., the total assessment for the whole parish at Lady-day, 1831, being £763. 3s. 6d.

This report was of such a nature that Parliament at once sent down a Surveyor to go more fully into details. He ascertained that there were 36 burgage tenements (these alone giving the right to vote), but in four instances two burgages were occupied together as one house, leaving really only 32 places in respect of which a vote was allowed. Of these, 24 were estimated to be worth £10 a year or upwards. The Commissioner estimated that there were 151 occupied and two unoccupied houses in the town, there being, in addition to the burgage tenements, 79 rated houses and 80 cottages, not rated, in the town division of the parish, 40 of the latter being in the town proper. The Commissioner summed the facts up by stating:—

The boundary of the old Borough is entirely unknown, as I was assured both by the old and present Bailiffs. All that I could learn

was that the Borough is certainly not co-extensive with the town division of the parish, which is merely a division made for the convenience of the parish officers in collecting the rates. It was stated to me as probable that the Borough does not extend beyond the town on any side but the north, on which last-mentioned side is a burgage tenement at some distance from the town. It appears certain that no part of the Borough can be out of the town division of the parish and it probably falls very short of it.

This report was accompanied by a map showing the Borough boundaries so far as they could be ascertained. They included the whole High Street back as far as the Hermitage; Ship Street; and the London Road, about as far as Newlands. The result of these reports was that in the Act passed the following year East Grinstead was one of the many small Boroughs disfranchised, and its political life was henceforth merged in a county constituency.

The same Act practically abolished the office of Bailiff. This officer had always been annually elected at the Courts Leet of the Duke of Dorset, and the position had been held alternately for some years by Mr. John Stenning and Mr. Edward Cranston. The latter's final work was the preparation of the report just quoted; the former was elected to succeed him at a gathering of the tenants of the Manor held in Sackville College on November 23rd, 1832, and this was the last appointment to the time-honoured office.

For 50 years afterwards East Grinstead remained a part of the county constituency of East Sussex, and it then gave the name to the existing Parliamentary Division. At the first election for the newly-formed constituency, on December 2nd, 1885, Mr. G. B. Gregory, of Boarzell, Hawkhurst, who had sat for East Sussex, and was for many years Treasurer of the Foundling Hospital, was elected in opposition to Mr. C. J. Heald, who stood in the Liberal interest, but who, on September 19th, 1885, had been thrown over by all the wealthy leaders of his party. On May 5th, 1886, the old Member was entertained at a complimentary banquet in East Grinstead, and on July 13th following the Hon. A. E. Gathorne Hardy, son of Viscount Cranbrook, and

now a Railway Commissioner, was chosen to succeed him. The next Member, the Hon. G. J. Goschen, son of Viscount Goschen, opened his political campaign on January 17th, 1894, Lord Cantelupe and Mr. C. Goring, who both sought to come forward in the Conservative interest, having retired in his favour. Mr. Goschen was duly elected and again chosen on October 10th, 1900. The Government then formed remained in power until the close of 1905, and Mr. Goschen sat for the constituency until the dissolution in January, 1906.

At this election Mr. C. H. Corbett, of Woodgate, Danehill, stood for the third time, his opponent being Mr. E. M. Crookshank, of Saint Hill, East Grinstead. The former was declared elected on January 26th, 1906, and thus became the first Liberal Member for the Division. Appended are the results of all contests in the constituency:—

## 1885.

Mr. G. B. Gregory (Conservative) .....	3530
Mr. C. J. Heald (Liberal) .....	2579— 951

## 1886.

Hon. A. E. G. Hardy (Conservative) .....	3289
Mr. C. J. Heald (Liberal) .....	1877—1412

## 1892.

Hon. A. E. G. Hardy (Conservative) .....	3987
Sir E. G. Jenkinson (Liberal) .....	2349—1638

## 1895.

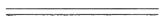
Hon. G. J. Goschen (Conservative) .....	3731
Mr. C. H. Corbett (Liberal) .....	2874— 857

## 1900.

Hon. G. J. Goschen (Conservative) .....	3890
Mr. C. H. Corbett (Liberal) .....	3003— 887

## 1906.

Mr. C. H. Corbett (Liberal) .....	4793
Mr. E. M. Crookshank (Conservative) .....	4531— 262



# THE PARISH CHURCH: ITS VICARS, REGISTERS AND TITHE OWNERS.

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## CHAPTER IV.

ALTHOUGH the first mention of a church at East Grinstead is subsequent to the founding, in 1078, of the Priory of St. Pancras at Lewes, it is possible that a church had existed in the town long prior to that date. Christianity was introduced into Great Britain during the Roman occupation from B.C. 55 to A.D. 418, when the Romans were compelled to withdraw their forces from the extremities of their empire, including this island, in order to protect themselves at home. The Christian religion was tolerated during the Roman dominion and the churches were under the rule of their own British clergy and so remained until A.D. 449, when the invasion by the Angles and Saxons commenced. During the 200 years of Saxon domination the paganism of the conquerors was practically supreme throughout the country. When Christianity re-appeared, East Grinstead was possibly one of the last places, owing to its then isolated and inaccessible position in the Forest of Anderida, to be brought to the Christian faith. One of the earliest churches is supposed to have been dedicated to St. Edmund, King and Martyr (A.D. 840 to 870). Subsequently St. Swithun became the patron saint. His translation took place on July 15th, 971. No means seem available to ascertain why or even when the alteration (if such occurred) in the dedication took place, but it may have been due to the building of a new church in place of a former one. No mention of a church in East Grinstead is made in the Domesday Survey, but this is no argument for its non-existence, as churches are known to have been then existing, though not mentioned; the reason being that the Survey dealt

only with rateable lands, and churches were then, as now, exempt from taxation.

On September 6th, 1683, the church was struck by lightning and set on fire. The following account of this catastrophe is from Mr. J. C. Stenning's "Notes on East Grinstead," the MS. having been furnished him by the late Mrs. Chevall Tooke :—

In the year 1683, on the 6th Sept., about half an hour after 6 p.m., Greensted steeple was set on fire by lightning, which began in the cross and then continued burning in the Shaft that went up to the Cross, but were two hours before it came to the shingles and yet could not by no means that was used be prevented from going farther. At length it took hold of the shingles and after an hour more made the steeple so hot, by reason of the falling of fire, that people could work there no longer. They then attempted to save the bells, but too late, for the fire fell so fast that none could stand to work. The fire which fell from above into the battlements fired the steeple at the lower side, which after a small space burnt with intolerable violence and in a short time burned down all the steeple, melted all the bells, burnt the bell lofts, stick and stake, all to the ground. But it was six of the clock the next morning before the lofts and all were burnt down, and yet notwithstanding this great fire and mighty heat in the belfry, by reason of the fire falling so fast, together with the melting of the bells, the Church, by God's mercy and the people's industry, was preserved untouched by the fire. But the mercy of God was yet more remarkable in the preservation of the town, for when the fire began the wind was high and in the east, which drove it over upon our back houses and barns very terribly. Although the fire was but small in comparison of what it was after, yet people were obliged to get upon the barns and back houses and defend them with wet sheets, quench the fire with water and beat it out with poles as it fell; and had the wind then continued our Town had certainly been burnt which many expecting pulled their goods out of their houses as fast as they could. But God in his infinite mercy had better things in store for us; the wind turned immediately as by a miracle and blew the sparks quite from the Town the best way that could possibly be imagined, for which benefit God of his infinite mercy make us truly and heartily thankful. Amen. Amen.

Some of the bells destroyed by this conflagration had been purchased a few years before from Framfield Church, the tower of which fell in 1667.

On June 9th, 1684, the first stone was laid towards the re-building of the tower. It was a noble structure, upwards of 80 feet high, exclusive of the minarets, and  $27\frac{1}{2}$  feet square. But bad materials and faulty workmanship seem to have been used, for it stood only a



century, the tower then falling on to the body of the church and almost completely demolishing it. The following account of the event appeared in "The Gentleman's Magazine" for 1785:—

This stately building, the tower of the Parish Church of East Grinstead, was re-built in 1684 (the old one having been burnt down by lightning in 1683), but had for some years past been in a state of decay, owing to the want of judgment in the architect, bad workmanship and worse materials. But within this twelvemonth it hastened very rapidly to its dissolution, by showing a large crack at the foundation of the north - east (? north - west) angle, which passed through the stone staircase contained in that angle, and which led to the top of the tower by winding steps. A large part of the outside of the foundation of that angle had at several times fallen down, which discovered the badness of the materials, being nothing but a case of stone filled up with rubbish, and that stone being very indifferent. The bells, which were six and very heavy and hung in the third loft, had not been rung for some time past, as it was observed that they shook the tower very much.

On Saturday, the 12th November, 1785, a very considerable quantity of stone fell from the north-west angle, some distance up the tower; this brought near a hundred persons into the churchyard. The stones kept continually falling, and many of them, from the violent pressure, flew from the foundation to a considerable distance, as if thrown from an engine; when another large parcel of stone fell from the same angle, and raised a great dust, which served as a warning to the spectators to keep at a greater distance. The grand crack was then observed to run very fast up the tower, and about a quarter of a hour before two o'clock it gave some dreadful cracks, and stones were heard to fall withinside; when the tower immediately divided north and south at the top, and the north-west minaret tottered for some seconds, which, together with the south-west and south-east minarets, fell down almost perpendicularly. The north-east minaret immediately followed, but unfortunately fell on the roof of the church, and, driving one pair of rafters against another, beat down three pillars out of the four and, with some large stones which fell from the south-east angle, unroofed all the north, and middle aisles, beyond the pulpit, and beat down one of the pillars in the south aisle in such a manner that the roof there also must be taken off; so that it may fairly be said two-thirds of the roof are destroyed by the fall of the north-east minaret and the stone from the north-east angle. The west part of the tower sinking almost perpendicularly, the stones did not reach so far into the churchyard on the west and south sides as might have been expected; so that none of the houses (though very near) were damaged and providentially no lives lost, though some persons had been both in the church and belfry, but a few minutes before, and the master and scholars had just left the School Room, which was adjoining to the steeple (*sic*) and was also destroyed.

The tower, being very large and of a great height, fell with the most dreadful noise, and shook the earth to a very considerable

distance round the town, and the cloud of dust raised by it was beyond description, insomuch that the spectators could not distinguish an object a foot distant from them. Five of the bells lay on the top of the rubbish, only covered by the lead of the roof, but the fourth bell was buried some distance, and has since been dug out, and they are whole to appearance, but whether any of them are cracked cannot be determined till they are hung up to give their sound.

John Bridgland and Avis Austen, the grandparents of Mr. R. Bridgland, who now lives in the East Grinstead Timber Yard, were married in the church in the morning before the tower fell.

“Nov. 12th, 1785. The steeple of East Grinstead church this day suddenly gave way and falling upon the body of the church utterly demolished it.” Thus was this sad misfortune described in a petition presented to Parliament on March 4th, 1790, by the owners and parishioners of East Grinstead. They stated that since the tower fell there had been no religious services, and though they had exerted their utmost endeavours they could not raise money sufficient, by voluntary means, to re-build the church. They begged Parliament to pass a Bill enabling them to make a rate for the purpose. The House acted very expeditiously. Parliament referred the matter to a Committee, who had Mr. Gibbs Crawford, of Saint Hill, before them, and on his evidence they found the allegations proved, and recommended that a Bill should be brought in. This was done on March 12th and by the 29th it had been read a second time and sent to another Committee. Several amendments were made in it and it finally passed the Commons on April 26th and the Lords on May 18th, the Royal Assent being given on June 9th.

The secret of this expedition possibly lay in the fact that Mr. Abbot was then Speaker of the House of Commons. He resided at Kidbrooke and took a deep interest in the matter. He declared, “I will have a tower I can see and a bell I can hear at Kidbrooke,” and in complying with his wishes it was said that the last 20 feet of the tower cost as much as all the rest put together. By the measure referred to it was enacted that it should be lawful for the trustees or any five of them to cause

the church to be re-built, and to raise a total sum not exceeding £4,000 for that purpose. The names of the first trustees were:—William Board, John Shelley, George Bankin, Charles Sawyer, William Isted, R. Hilton, Alexander Donald, John Batehelor, John Balcomb and Thomas Richardson. Meetings were to be held at the house known by the sign of the Swan, and a Treasurer, Clerk and Collector were to be appointed. The trustees were to allot pews, following old legal titles therein; to build the church by contract; and to make rates which should be paid half by the landlord and half by the tenant. The rates might be levied by distress, and persons quitting their house without paying the rates might be followed. The trustees might raise money by sale of annuities or mortgaging the rates, the annuities were to be exempt from taxes and might be assigned. The rates might also be assigned as security for money borrowed. Twenty-one years later a second Act was passed authorising the borrowing of a further £4,000. But it cost £30,000 to erect the building and pay the contingent charges. The architect was Mr. Wyatt and the stone came from Selsfield, Blackwell and Wych Cross.

Among the loans made was one of £1,000 by Mr. Gibbs Crawford. He afterwards disposed of his claim, five-ninths of the amount being acquired by William Boorman, who gave it to his daughter, Mary Nash Boorman, as a dowry, on the occasion of her marriage to Mr. John Jones Pierce, who still lives at Lamberhurst. The Boorman family was at one time in business in East Grinstead, J. H. Boorman issuing his own halfpenny in 1799. Mrs. Pierce's sum was paid off, capital and interest, £555. 10s. 10d., in January, 1858. Another loan was one of £2,000 by Sir Alexander Munro, one of the Commissioners of H.M. Customs, for which sum he purchased an annuity of £220 a year, which terminated at his death. Mr. James Evelyn, who then occupied Felbridge Place, advanced £1,000 on July 30th, 1791, at the low rate of 3 per cent., and on his death this became vested in the third Earl of Liverpool. In

1852 the authorities began to pay off this loan by sums of £100 to £300 a year, the final instalment being paid on Jan. 1st, 1856. The final payments on the original loans were made on Nov. 29th, 1876, being the last of three life annuities held by the Sun Insurance Office.

The Act abolishing compulsory church rates was passed on August 4th, 1868, but they continued to be made in East Grinstead for some seven years after that date, in order to realise the amounts still due on the old loans for the church re-building. To meet the ordinary church expenses a voluntary rate was first tried, but so few people paid, that, at a meeting held on October 10th, 1872, it was decided to take no further steps in this direction, but to provide in future for the necessary annual expenses of the church by voluntary contributions, a practice which still continues.

The original design of the building has never been completed. The whole of the side buttresses were to have had pinnacles similar to those on the tower, of which St. Peter's Church, Brighton, affords a very good example, but funds fell short, and the present capitals were substituted. There was not even enough money to complete the roof or seat the church, so a flat ceiling of plaster and whitewash was put in and the floor was paved, rushes were strewn and people brought their own chairs. Various plans for pewing the church were prepared from 1796 onward, but it was not until 1806 that it was determined to act upon any one of them. A few pews were early built by private enterprise, until the Trustees passed a resolution forbidding the practice. Eventually the interior was allotted, as set forth in the Act for rebuilding, to the various estates in the neighbourhood and a uniform plan of pews adopted. These were of deal, 4-ft. 6-in. high. When the Rev. D. Y. Blakiston was presented to the living he at once set about remedying this undesirable state of affairs. At a public meeting held on April 11th, 1872, he suggested the formation of a Church Council, but the meeting negatived the proposal by a small majority. A resolution was, however, passed in

favour of re-seating the church, and on a poll being taken it was confirmed by a majority of 20 voters with 40 votes in favour, to seven voters with 15 votes against. A committee was formed to carry the matter through. Mr. J. M. Hooker, an architect, of Seven-oaks, was consulted, plans for 1,013 seats and estimates were got out and an appeal was issued for £900, to include also the cost of installing gas, oil lamps having, up to this time, been used. In the year 1855 some progressive worshippers had sought to secure the introduction of gas in the place of these oil lamps, in order that evening services might be tried, but on December 6th of the year named the parishioners decided in Vestry that it was not desirable to have evening service in the Parish Church and refused to sanction the rate proposed for fitting up and lighting the edifice with gas.

The estimate for the re-seating was far too low. The work was carried out by the late Mr. John Godly, and the total cost of re-seating, lighting and cleaning was £1,523. It was not completed without opposition. A few opposed the granting of the faculty, but all finally fell in with the scheme except the late Mr. C. C. Tooke, of Hurst-an-Clays, and the late Mr. Henry Taylor, the latter then one of the churchwardens. The former's large, ugly pew was especially exempted by the faculty from the scheme, and it remained in the church, a sad disfigurement to the whole interior, until his death on October 21st, 1890, when, by the consent of his daughter (Mrs. Henry Padwick), it was speedily removed. The church was closed on September 7th, 1874, and re-opened by the Bishop (Dr. Durnford) on November 14th following; in the meantime the services were held in the School and the Holy Communion administered in Sackville College Chapel. On the re-opening day, for the first time, the church choir appeared in surplices.

The re-seating with oak threw into prominence the ugliness of the dirty deal panelling, which ran round the whole church to a height of over 5-ft., the plastered walls and flat whitened ceiling. The committee decided to build

a new open roof, remove the panelling and clean the beautiful stonework of the whitewashed plaster which hid it from view. This led to almost interminable disputes. An indignation meeting was held, law-suits were threatened and the re-appointment of Mr. John Tooth as parish churchwarden, he having by this time succeeded Mr. H. Taylor, was opposed. At the Easter Vestry Mr. C. R. Duplex was elected people's warden, and Mr. Tooth thereupon demanded a poll. This was the only contested election of a parish churchwarden that, so far as can be ascertained, has ever occurred here; certainly there has been no other during the past century. The voting took place amid intense excitement on April 2nd, 1875, and the result was: J. Tooth, 247; C. R. Duplex, 180. The victor was afterwards drawn through the streets in a carriage, and the Volunteer Band turned out and played "See the Conquering Hero comes." Meanwhile the committee had gone on with its work unmoved. The present roof was put on and the walls pointed as now, for a sum of £858. By this time "dry rot" had manifested itself in the floor and another £200 was expended on curing this. The work of restoration occupied no less than 12 years, and of the 10 members on the committee at the beginning, only four—the Vicar, Messrs. C. Absalom, W. V. K. Stenning and J. Tooth—remained in office the whole time. Messrs. E. L. Hannam and E. A. Head were among those elected to fill vacancies and they served until the work was completed. Others who acted on the committee for a time were the Rev. T. D. Hopkins, the Rev. C. W. Payne Crawford, Mr. A. Hastie, Mr. W. A. Head and Mr. C. Sawyer. The whole £2,500 was raised by voluntary contributions. Of the 1,013 seats about 400 are unappropriated. The present iron fencing which borders the churchyard and paths bears peculiar evidence of an act of fanaticism. All the main supports were formerly surmounted by an ornament which bore resemblance to a cross. People awoke one morning to find that the whole of these, with one solitary exception, and over one hundred in number, had been knocked off during the night, and the fence, so mutilated, remains to-day.

In addition to many works, the cost of which has been defrayed by public subscription, the following personal gifts have been made towards the adornment or furnishing of the existing fabric:—

Work.	Donors.
The Restoration of the Chancel	Rev. C. W. P. Crawford.
East Window .....	Miss E. H. Clarke, in memory of her parents.
First Window in South Aisle	Mrs. Stenning, in memory of her husband, William Stenning.
Second „ „ „ „	The Misses Clarke, "In Memoriam," by desire of their father, G. E. Clarke, and other members of his family.
Fourth „ „ „ „	Mrs. A. K. Whyte, in memory of her husband, John Whyte.
Fifth „ „ „ „	Miss K. G. Clarke, in memory of her sister, Rebecca Worrell Clarke.
First „ „ North „	Mrs. Buckley, in memory of Richard Theodore Buckley.
Second „ „ „ „	The Misses Moir, in memory of their parents, Peter and Margaret Moir.
Altar Table, Red Frontal and Credence Table.....	Miss E. H. Clarke.
Carved Oak Pulpit .....	The Misses Clarke, erected by desire of their father, George Elliott Clarke, to the memory of his wife, Rebecca, his only son, Forster Mayers, and his daughter, Marion Crawford Louis.
Oak Lectern .....	Rev. C. W. P. Crawford.
Service Books .....	Mr. and Mrs. K. R. Murchison.
„ „ .....	Sir George Wyatt Truscott and Lady Truscott.
The Organ.....	The Mother Superior and Sisters of St. Margaret's.
Decoration of the Organ-pipes	Rev. D. Y. Blakiston.
The Gates at the South Porch	Mrs. Covey, in memory of her husband, the late George Covey.
Bell - ropes and Chiming Apparatus .....	Rev. C. W. P. Crawford.

Some interesting gifts are referred to in the will, dated July 8th, 1507, of John Payne, of Pixtons. The following is translated from the original Latin:—

In the name of God Amen. I John Payn the elder of fforestrowe in the parish of Estgrensted being of sound mind and memory make my

will in form following. Imprimis I bequeath my soul to almighty God, to the blessed Virgin Mary and all the Saints, and my body to be buried in the Churchyard of the parish Church of Estgrenstede.

Also I bequeath to the mother Church of Chichester 8<sup>d</sup>. Also to the high altar of Estgrenstede for tithes forgotten and unpaid 12<sup>d</sup>. Also I bequeath to Elizabeth my wife for the term of her life my manor farm called Pyckestonns (now Pixton Hill, a small estate and private house near Forest Row occupied by Mr. T. Hyde) and at her decease to my eldest son then surviving and his heirs and in default of this heir to the next heirs of me the aforesaid John Payn.

Also I will that whosoever shall possess the aforesaid manor-farm of Pyckestonns shall pay a yearly sum of 16<sup>d</sup> so long as the world endures for the maintenance of a lamp before [the image of] St. Mary the Virgin situate in the church of Estgrenstede in the north part of the aforesaid Church.

Also I devise to George my son the tenement Beeches (ten<sup>m</sup> de Beeches) and to his heirs and in default of an heir of him then to the next heirs of me the aforesaid John Payn.

Also I bequeath to each of my sons and daughters two young bulls: also I devise the tenement called Maveld (ten<sup>m</sup> de Maveld) to Elizabeth my wife and after her decease to [my] elder son then surviving and to his heirs and in default of heirs of him to the next heirs of me the aforesaid John. Also I devise Shoberys to the use and behoof of John Payn junior my brother. Also I will as to Westfeld, late Robert Kelys, provided that at the end and term of 5 years he shall pay or cause to be paid to my relict Elizabeth or to John my younger brother 5 marks, that he shall have again the aforesaid Westfeld, but otherwise I will that the aforesaid Westfeld shall remain to John Payn my younger brother. Also I bequeath for the reparation of Wallhill one cow. Also I bequeath to the church of Estgrenstede one torch of the value of 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>. But the residue of my goods undisposed of (after deducting debts due) I give and bequeath to Elizabeth my wife that she may dispose of them on my behalf as to her shall seem best: and her I ordain and constitute my true and lawful executrix, but John Payn junior my brother I make overseer before these witnesses, viz., Mr. Thomas Dagnall, Chaplain, John Sprengett and others. Dated 8th July 1507.

Dagnall was probably a chantry priest or chaplain to a nobleman; he was not Vicar of the parish. The statue of the Virgin Mary, like the bequest, has long since been forgotten.

The organ, presented by St. Margaret's Sisterhood and decorated by the Vicar, was used for the first time on April 5th, 1888.

There is no doubt that at one time the churchyard extended over a portion of what is now the vicarage garden. The old vicarage stood closer to the church



than the existing house, being near the corner of the churchyard and Church Street. The present house was built largely at the expense of Mary Lady Amherst, who was the patron of the living, and who spent considerable sums on religious objects. She charged the estate of Imberhorne with three separate rent charges amounting to £70 annually, for ever, towards the support of the church at Forest Row.

The church possesses as fine a peal of bells as there is in the South of England, and the tenor is one of the largest in the county. It measures  $52\frac{1}{2}$ -in. in diameter and weighs a ton and a quarter. Each bell, from the first to the sixth, is inscribed, "T Mears of London, fecit, 1813." The seventh has simply "T Mears fecit," and the eighth the fuller inscription, "East Grinstead, Thomas Mears, fecit 1813." The first complete peal of Grandsire Triples (5,040 changes) was rung on them on December 21st, 1843.

The last attempt to enforce the "Church Terrier" was made on August 11th, 1869. This was a document setting forth the liabilities of certain properties in regard to the upkeep of the churchyard wall and fences. The Vestry called on Mr. Capes "to repair the carriage gate leading into the churchyard at the east end by the beer-shop, as he was bound to do such repairs according to the Church Terrier in respect of his property called Brookhurst." The churchyard wall along Church Street gives good evidence of the effect of the old Terrier. It is built and repaired in about ten distinct sections, some of brick, some of stone, being at one time evidently maintained by people of very diverse tastes and means.

Appended is a copy of the "Terrier" as prepared in 1711:—

THE MARKS AND BOUNDS OF THE CHURCH YARD OF EAST GRINSTEAD IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX TO BE MADE BY THE INHABITANTS AND OWNERS OF LANDS WITHIN THE SAID TOWN AND PARISH AS FOLLOWETH ON THE TABLE:—

1. The Church Gate on the South Side of the yard containing eight foot to be made by the Town.

From the Church Gate towards the East and so forward.

2. Dallingridge ..... 7 foot.
3. Hazleden ..... 8 foot.
4. Sheppards & Scarletts ..... 8 foot.  
Leonard Gale, Esq., Owner; Arthelbert Wicking, Tenant.
5. The Manor of Weild, *alias* Wallhill, 10 foot. William Peck, Esq., Owner; Thomas Martin, Tenant.
6. Ridgehill, 9 foot. John Shelley, Esq., Owner; Abraham Huggett, Tenant.
7. Millplace, 8 foot. John Conyers, Esq., Owner; Edward Creasey, Tenant.
8. Homestall, 8 foot. Charles Goodwine, Esq., Owner; Ninnon Creasey, Tenant.
9. Pauls farm, 4 foot. John Storrer, Owner.
10. Mays farm, 11 foot. Michael Mateire, Gentleman, Owner; Edward Bannister, Tenant.
11. Frampost, Thomas Maynard, Owner; Edward Godley, Tenant, 4 foot.
12. Charlwood, Elizabeth Nickoll, Owner; Robert Langridge, Tenant, 4 foot.
13. Whalesbeech, 12 foot. John Biddulph, Esq., Owner; Henry Lindley, Tenant.
14. Lovekines, 7 foot. Mary Thatcher and Sarah Wheeler, Owners; Jno. Payne, Wheelrit, Tenant.
15. Harwoods. John Hurst, Gentleman, Owner; Henry Johnson, Gentleman, Tenant, foot.
16. Senclere, Brambletye, Twenty and nine foot. Jno. Biddulph, Esq., Owner; Henry Lindley, Tenant.
17. Boylies, Fifteen foot. Thomas White, Gentleman, Owner; John Tyler, Tenant.
18. Cullens, Ten foot. John Biddulph, Esq., Owner; Thomas Suxford, Gentleman, Tenant.
19. Renvills, Twenty foot. John Biddulph, Esq., Owner; Herbert Maynard, Tenant.
20. Rutters Worsteds, Nine foot. John Pickering, Gentleman, Owner; Nathaniel Austen, Tenant.
21. Worsteds. John Earle, Owner; Eight foot. Richard Goodwyne, Tenant.
22. Bucknors, Brokehurst, Five foot. Jno. Pickering, Esq., Owner; Nathaniel Moore, Gentleman, Tenant.
23. The Manor of Brokehurst. James Tulley, Gentleman, Owner, being the carrying gate contain'g Ten foot. Jervise Thorpe, Tenant.
24. The Bower, Thirty foot and the stile, 5 foot, in all, thirty and five foot. Jno. Payne, Gentleman, Owner.
25. The Shewill, Ten foot. Widow Woodgate, Owner.
26. Pickstones, Ten foot. John Conyers, Esq., Owner; William Norris, Tenant.

## THE VICARS.

Soon after the Priory of St. Pancras was established at Lewes in 1078, Alured, who was "Pincerna," or cup bearer, to Robert, first Count of Mortain, gave the church of East Grinstead and half a hide of land belonging to it at Imberhorne towards the support of this Priory. This is the first mention of such a building in East Grinstead. This grant was confirmed by William Count of Mortain, half-brother to the Conqueror, by a charter *circa* 1108. In 1352 the living was exchanged by the Prior and Convent of Lewes for the church at Burton, but the living continued in the presentation of the Prior until 1554, when Anne of Cleves appointed a Vicar. She lived for a time at Lewes and had been divorced in 1540, the right of presentation probably being given her at the time of the confiscation of ecclesiastical property in 1545. She died in 1557, and the privilege of presentation has since belonged to various branches of the Sackville family, now represented by Lord Sackville, of Knole.

Appended is a list of Vicars, so far as they can be ascertained:—

Peter, 1241. An entry in the muniments of St. Mary Magdalen College, Oxford, says, "Grinstead Ray Peter Rector."

Alard, 1285.

Robert de Wynton, 1296. This Vicar got into trouble for fishing in a pond at Hymberhorne without permission from the Prior of St. Pancras, Lewes.

William de Astania or Estanaye, 1304. Was also Rector of West Grinstead and Prebend of Lincoln, Wells and St. David's.

Thomas, 1306.

Peter, 1327. Deemed to be Vicar, as he headed the list and paid the largest sum of those taxed in the Borough of East Grinstead.

Johannes de Wynton or Wyntonia, 1328. John de Warrenne brought an action against Adam de Wynton, monk, and John, "p'sona ecclie de Estgrenestede." Exchanged the living of Atherton with

Raymond Pellegrini, 1331. Exchanged livings with

Annibaldus (Cardinal), 1331. Bishop of Tusculum and holder of several benefices and high offices. Died at West Grinstead, 1351.

Richard de Bannebury, 1346-7. This rector was summoned by John de Warrenne, Earl of Surrey, for breaking into Worth Park and hunting therein.

Richard de Derby, 1350-1.

William de Loughburgh, 1351.

Simon de Breden, Oct. 3rd, 1351.

John Kirkeby, formerly Vicar of Sidlesham and Rector of Horsted Keynes. Exchanged livings with

Richard Markwyk, from Little Horsted, admitted Oct. 17th, 1381.

Richard Stoneherst, 1387-8.

Thomas Fferryng, 1395. Was summoned by the Prior of Lewes for breaking with force of arms into a close belonging to the said Prior in East Grinstead.

John Bakere, 1397.

Ricardus atte Estcote (? East Court), 1410.

Michael Preston, appointed April 27th, 1411.

Robert Burgh, exchanged livings with

John Mankyn, Feb. 26th, 1417. Rector of North Lidyard Milcent.

Adam Newyle or Alan Neroyle, exchanged livings with

John Bennet, who was Vicar of Wadhurst, Jan. 12th, 1423.

William Lane, exchanged livings with

Geoffry Medewe, Rector of Rosfphlegh, Diocese of Lincoln, 24th July, 1438.

Robert Blowere, formerly Rector of St. Michael's, Lewes, appointed Dec. 10th, 1438.

John Cook, 1463.

John Brether or Crothes, or Crowther, 1478. Died Jan. 16th, 1499.

Edward Prymer, 1528-9.

William Breton, LL.D., appointed Feb. 28th, 1528.

Robert Best, appointed 1552-3, deposed, but reinstated in 1556-7.

William Devonishe, appointed Sept. 23rd, 1554.

Robert Best, Vicar for a second time, 1556-7.

Richard Burnopp, or Burnap, the first Vicar presented to the living by the Sackville family, was appointed Sept. 24th, 1563; died 1595. The Star Chamber proceedings state that this Vicar being "a very lewd and wicked p'son altogether swarvinge from his profession nor having the fear of God before his eies" did, at Lewes Sessions, falsely swear that James Pickas, gent., arrested him while at the communion table, to the great disturbance of the communicants. It was proved that such an event never took place and that Richard Burnopp was "a common reporter of manifest untruths and dayly disturber of his quiet neighb<sup>rs</sup> and an intermeddler in other men's causes," having procured them to spend over £500 in useless law suits. What the Star Chamber did to him is not stated.

John Walwyn, M.A., appointed Nov. 28th, 1598. Formerly Vicar or Rector of Wisborough Green, Arundel, Withyham and Fletching, and afterwards Vicar of Heathfield.

Edward Topsell, M.A., appointed May 5th, 1610. He was an author of considerable repute and published some books which were, in those days, very popular. His chief works were "The Historie of Foure-footed Beastes" and "The Historie of Serpents." He was perpetual curate of St. Botolph, Aldersgate, but held several country livings, including East Grinstead, at the same time.

Alan or Allen Carr, appointed May 6th, 1615. He owned several parcels of land in East Grinstead and Lingfield.

James Inians, appointed Sept. 2nd, 1637. Was formerly Rector of Streat and St. Ann's, Lewes; buried Feb. 23rd, 1642, at East Grinstead.

Richard Goffe or Gough, appointed 1643; ejected because he was proved to be "a common haunter of Tavernes and Alehouses, a common swearer of bloody oathes and singer of bawdy songs, and often drunke and keepeth company with Papists and scandalous persons."

Samuel Pretty, 1645. The living was sequestered from Gough to this Vicar, who does not seem to have been in Holy Orders. He was ordered to pay a fifth part of the profits of the Vicarage to his predecessor's wife, and neglecting to do so an action was brought against him. While it was in progress the Committee of Plundered Ministers sequestered the Vicarage from Pretty and returned him "into the County of Wiltshire, from where he had been driven by the King's forces." This was on Feb. 17th, 1645-6.

Stephen Watkins, Puritan, appointed Feb. 17th, 1645-6, but resigned before Aug. 27th, 1647.

George Blundell, appointed Aug. 27th, 1647. Described as "a godlie man and orthodox Divine" (a Puritan), but he afterwards conformed.

Robert Crayford, appointed Feb. 10th, 1657. A Puritan. Subsequently Rector of Barcombe; buried there Sept. 21st, 1709.

Christopher Snell, appointed 1658, a Puritan; ejected 1662.

John Saywell, D.D., appointed Aug. 31st, 1671. Resigned in the following Nov. and reinstated the same month.

John Staples, M.A., appointed Jan. 25th, 1689. Died of small-pox Aug. 2nd and buried at night Aug. 4th, 1732.

George Gurnett, M.A., appointed Nov. 15th, 1732. Formerly Rector of West Chilington; died Aug. 2nd, 1746.

Thomas James, M.A., appointed Nov. 25th, 1746.

Henry Woodward, M.A., appointed June 9th, 1757. Died Nov. 20th, 1763.

Charles Whitehead, M.A., appointed Jan. 13th, 1764. Afterwards Rector of Worth.

Stileman Bostock, M.A., formerly Rector of Folkington, appointed Mar. 15th, 1792.

Richard Taylor, M.A., appointed April 23rd, 1811, died Mar. 20th, 1835.

Christopher Nevill, M.A., appointed May 27th, 1835, died Dec. 15th, 1847. While acting as English chaplain at Lisbon in 1830 Mr. Nevill collected the necessary funds for the erection of a sarcophagus over the grave of Henry Fielding, the novelist, who died at Lisbon in 1754.

John Netherton Harward, M.A., appointed June 6th, 1848, died Nov. 24th, 1863.

It may not be out of place to record here that this Vicar had two sons who won great distinction in the Army. At the battle of Inkerman, at a moment when the Russians had the ascendant, and the defeat of the Allies looked almost assured "with what to the Russians seemed absolute suddenness," says Kinglake in his "Invasion of the Crimea," "a new power came into action." Lord Raglan ordered up two heavy guns, weighing over two tons each, and known to bear very strong charges of powder and carry an 18-lb. ball with precision and terrific power. They were located in an exposed position and the gunners working them were exposed to a perfect hurricane of shot, directed on one narrow spot from several batteries, and the losses were very heavy. But as a gunner dropped out, dead or wounded, another took his place, and they never ceased to hurl back their fateful answers. One of the guns was laid every time by Lieut. George Sisson Harward and every shot fired carried havoc into the enemy's batteries. It was one of the most marvellous artillery duels of the whole Crimean campaign. Two guns against a hundred, but, to quote again from Kinglake, "at the end of a quarter of an hour it could be seen that our gunners were conquering for themselves a comparative immunity. The slaughter, the wreck, the confusion they spread in the enemy's batteries had by that time weakened his fire and henceforth, every instant, it began to seem more and more plain that this was an unequal conflict. . . . Whether tearing direct through a clump of the enemy's gunners or lighting upon some piece of rock, and flinging abroad, right and left, its murderous splinters; whether bounding into a team of artillery horses, or smashing and blowing up tumbrils, the terrible 18 pounder shot never flew to its task without ploughing a furrow of ruin." The change wrought by the duel was one of great moment and it was the first real agent in the ultimate defeat of the Russians. Lieut. Harward and his men, according to Lord Raglan, rendered "distinguished and splendid service." The other son who attained distinction was

General Thomas Netherton Harward, who served through the Indian Mutiny campaign and was mentioned in despatches.

John Peat, M.A., formerly Master of Sevenoaks Grammar School, appointed Dec. 26th, 1863.

Mr. Peat gained some repute as an author. He wrote a translation of the Sapphic Odes of Horace and also published a lengthy poem entitled "The Fair Evanthe," in which he described that which is "beautiful, graceful, excellent and holy in women." He died on May 10th, 1871, and was buried at Chevening, near Sevenoaks.

Douglas Yeoman Blakiston was appointed Oct. 30th, 1871. The present Vicar is the third son of the late Rev. Peyton Blakiston, M.D., F.R.S., and Frances, eldest daughter of John Folliot Powell. He is a grandson of the late Sir Mathew Blakiston, the second baronet of the present creation, who was born in 1760 at the Mansion House, London, during his father's Lord Mayoralty, and who married, as his third wife, Annabella, daughter of Thomas Bayley, M.P. for Durham. The Vicar was at one time a student at the Royal Academy and a silver medallist. He married on July 11th, 1861, Sophia Matilda, youngest daughter of the Rev. Wm. Dent, of Crosby Cote, Yorkshire. He was educated at Downing College, Cambridge; took his B.A. degree (2nd Class Theological Tripos) in 1868 and M.A. 1872. He was ordained Deacon in 1868 and Priest in 1869 at Ely. From 1868 to 1871 he was Curate of Toft-with-Caldecote, Cambridgeshire, and was then presented to the living of East Grinstead by Reginald Earl De la Warr (then Lord Buckhurst, of Knole).

## THE REGISTERS.

The earliest records in the parish registers occur in 1558. Twenty years before, Cromwell, as Vicar-General, had issued the first mandate for keeping registers of baptisms, marriages and burials in each parish, and the mandate was repeated, in rigorous terms, on the accession of Elizabeth in 1558. The Rev. Robert Best was then Vicar, but it is doubtful if the existing registers were started by him, for a great uniformity in the earlier entries seems to suggest that they were written at one time, possibly as a result of the ordination in 1597, that parchment register books should be purchased at the expense of each parish and the names in the older books from 1558 re-entered in them. Thus it happens that a vast number of parish registers commence in this year. To give the whole of the local lists would fill a very large volume and a few entries

must suffice. The following is a complete list of the "Christeninges" from December 26th to the end of the year, March 25th (old style):—

Dec. 26, 1558	.....	Isabell Allyn.
Jan. 21	.....	John Humffrey.
Feb. 20	.....	Willm. Soane.
March 3	.....	Alice Milles.
" "	.....	John Baylie.
" 8	.....	John Palmer.
" "	.....	John Hartfield.
" 20	.....	Margarett Smythe.
" "	.....	Thomas Drewrie.

The marriage entries begin on November 17th, 1558, but time, damp, rust and moth have mutilated the outside leaves and nothing is legible before the following:—

Sept. 15, 1560	....	John Payne and Johane Wood.
" 22,	" ....	Harrie Cooper and Anne Humffrey.
Oct. 6,	" ....	Roger Heathe and Ursula Alfrey.
" 13,	" ....	Thomas a Kent and Alice Boyes.
" 20,	" ....	John Huggett and Elizabeth Humffrey.
" 27,	" ....	Alexander Coxe and Isabel Canawey.
Nov. 3,	" ....	Edward Soane and Dynnesse Page.
" 10,	" ....	Roger Spurway and Margrett ffoster.

The first few pages of burials have evidently been detached from the book and lost, but appended are all the entries from January 18th to March 25th, the end of the year (old style):—

Jan. 18, 1574	....	Nicholas, son of Robert Walter.
" 20,	" ....	Margerie Brian.
" 27,	" ....	John Page.
" 28,	" ....	John Mawle.
March 15,	" ....	Samuell Drewe.

Families bearing several of the above names still reside in the district.

In all the earlier volumes there are, at the ends, records of "Briefs" received from other parishes. These were royal letters patent authorising, almost ordering, collections in churches for charitable and other purposes. The repair and rebuilding of churches was for a long period of years effected by this method. They were originally issued from the Court of Chancery, but grew so frequent that they were latterly only granted by



that Court on the application of Quarter Sessions. The records in the East Grinstead registers only refer to briefs received from other parishes and not to those issued on behalf of this parish, so that they are devoid of local interest.

The average nett yearly value of the living is now about £300, with a good house and over two acres of glebe land. The owners of the great tithes are Lord Sackville, Earl De la Warr and the Rev. C. W. Payne Crawford. Their predecessors gave up their claims on a tithe of the produce of the parish under the Tithe Commutation Act in 1842, as did also the Vicar his claim to the small tithes, and received instead rent charges, varying with the price of corn, fixed then at the following amounts and in the following proportions:—

	£	s.	d.
To Earl Amherst (now represented by Lord Sackville) ..	932	13	9
To Mr. Robert Crawford (now represented by Rev. C. W. Payne Crawford) .....	300	0	0
To Earl De la Warr and Earl Amherst jointly.....	67	6	3
To the Vicar of East Grinstead .....	500	0	0

To the last-named amount was also added an extraordinary tithe of 10s. per acre on all cultivated hop lands in the parish.

The Crawford family, long resident at Saint Hill, then at East Court, but now at Ardmillan, hold their portion of the Rectorial tithes of the parish and their rights in the chancel of St. Swithun's by virtue of a deed dated 29th June, 1624, which is still preserved among the title deeds by the present owner, viz., the Rev. C. W. P. Crawford, J.P., of Ardmillan. This deed is a conveyance for the sum of £635, of a certain portion of the Rectorial tithes, and is made by Robert Cooper, citizen and alebrewer, of Southwark (who had quite recently acquired them by purchase from the Dorset family) in favour of Edward Payne, the younger, of East Grinstead, gentleman, and Hanna, his wife. From a recital in the same deed we learn that the "chauncell" of the Parish Church was then in ruin and decay, and Cooper covenants to indemnify Payne, his heirs and

assigns against all claims for present or future repair of the said chancel.

It is an interesting fact, and one that brings out clearly the continuity of our parish annals, that these same tithes, with certain rights in the chancel and the Payne vault beneath it, have descended lineally through seven successive generations to Mr. Crawford, their present owner, while each successive holder has been a resident landowner in the parish and buried in the chancel of St. Swithun's, until the late Mr. Robert Crawford, J.P., D.L. (formerly of Saint Hill and father of the present holder), dying in 1883, was buried in the Cemetery. The direct ancestors of that Edward Payne (born 1593, died 1660), who purchased the tithes in 1624 and became Sheriff of Sussex in 1644, had already been resident landowners in this parish for some 200 years certainly, and probably for much longer, and continual references to members of the family occur among old local records. Thus in 1588, when Queen Elizabeth made a special appeal to the nobility and gentry to contribute funds "for the better withstanding the intended invaçõn of this realme" by the King of Spain, the contributions sent from East Grinstead included one of £25—a handsome sum in those days—from Edward Paine, jun. (1560-1643).

This was the father of the Edward Payne who, with his wife Hanna, is party to the above-mentioned deed of 1624. Edward was born and baptised at East Grinstead in 1593, and was son and heir of Edward Payne (1560-1643) of the Borough of East Grinstead, gent., by Anna, his wife, daughter and heir of John Payne, of Hicksted, in Twineham, yeoman, and granddaughter of John Payne, of Hicksted, who died in 1545.

In 1619 he married Hanna, daughter of Richard Yerwood, of Southwark, gent. In 1644 he was Sheriff of Sussex, and dying in 1660 was buried at East Grinstead. At his death he owned freeholds, burgages and portlands in East Grinstead and Hartfield, the manor and lands of Gravetye and Wildgoose, Goddenwick Farm in Lindfield, John Bartholomew's house in East Grinstead,

Cooke's Mead (ten acres held of Imberhorne Manor), Pilshers or Gallows Croft (three acres near East Grinstead Common and now forming part of the Halsford estate), the manor and farm of Burley Arches in Worth, a farm and lands in Barcombe and the manors and farm of Chiddingly in West Hoathly. The Hicksted property in Twineham thus came to the Paynes of East Grinstead by marriage in 1583, and so descended to Charles Payne Crawford, of Saint Hill, who sold it about 1800. Goddenwick, Pilshers, Burley Arches and Chiddingly also descended to the late Mr. Robert Crawford, of Saint Hill, and were sold about 1850.

Almost a century later, viz., in 1685, we find the Sessions House at East Grinstead being rebuilt by local contributions, and chiefly by the aid of yet another Edward Payne (1622-1688), then bailiff of the borough town. This was the eldest son of Edward Payne, the purchaser of the tithes. The second son Richard (1629-1694), a considerable landowner, settled at Lewes and there founded a thriving family, he himself being Sheriff of Sussex in 1690, and his son Richard becoming M.P. for Lewes at intervals between 1702 and 1707. The purchaser's third son, Robert (1632-1708), of Newick and East Grinstead, founded in East Grinstead the Free School, now represented by the Payne Endowment Scholarships, a matter more fully referred to in the chapter which deals with the charities of East Grinstead.

They were evidently useful citizens, these "Paynes of the Towne," as they are frequently styled in the early Parish Registers and elsewhere, to distinguish them from the many other families in the parish of the same name but of rather humbler degree, *e.g.*, the Paynes of Ashurst Wood, Wallhill and Pickstones; the Paynes of Plawhatch, Legsheath, Walesbeech, Monkshill and Maules; the Paynes of Horshoe (now termed "Horseshoe"); the Paynes of Blackwell and others, who, though probably connected in the distant past, had been left behind by "the Paynes of the Towne" in the race of life.

However this may be, the latter seem to have risen, by dint of frugality and industry, from substantial yeomen

in early times, to become in the sixteenth century, and long thereafter to continue, ironmasters of some note and considerable landowners in the parish and surrounding district, till, in the year 1661, we find them applying for, and obtaining, a grant of arms from the Herald's College, duly issued to "Edward Payne, Richard, Robert, Charles and Henry, his brothers, the sons of Mr. Edward Payne, late of East Grinstead, in the County of Sussex, deceased." The arms and crest then assumed by the family appear on several of the monuments in the chancel. Much of local interest might be recorded of this quiet, undistinguished family, but enough has been said to suggest how long and how closely successive generations of the old stock continued to identify themselves with their native parish.

The male line of this particular family of Paynes died out in East Grinstead upon the death of Charles Payne, of East Grinstead and Newick, Esq., in 1734, but his only surviving daughter and heir, Miss Anna Payne (1732-1797), married, in 1760, Gibbs Crawford, of Saint Hill, J.P., a Clerk of H.M. Ordnance and M.P. for Queenboro', in Kent, thus merging in the Saint Hill estate the bulk of the old Payne possessions in this and the surrounding parishes. Mr. Gibbs Crawford (1732-1793) was son and heir of John Crawford (1694-1763), of Saint Hill, Messenger to the Great Seal, who came into Sussex from Ardmillan, co. Ayr, about the year 1725, and shortly afterwards built the original house at Saint Hill, of which there may be seen a water-colour sketch, dated 1733, among the Burrell MSS. in the British Museum. By his wife Anna (*née* Payne) Mr. Gibbs Crawford left two sons, viz., Charles Payne Crawford (1765-1814), of Saint Hill, J.P., Paymaster of Widows' Pensions and Barrister-at-Law, and Thomas Gibbs Crawford (1768-1832), of Paxhill Park, Lindfield, J.P., an officer in the Royal Horse Guards (Blues).

It was during the lifetime of the late Mr. Robert Crawford (1801-1883), of Saint Hill, J.P., D.L., only child and heir of Charles Payne Crawford, that the family estate of Saint Hill, including, as we have seen,

the bulk of what was once the Payne property, was sold by degrees to various purchasers, though his son, Mr. Crawford, of Ardmillan, still retains the Payne tithes, purchased, as stated, in 1624, with certain rights in the chancel of St. Swithun's and also part of the Dean Fields, adjoining College Lane, which were a small farm with oast-house and stables upon it when purchased by the Payne family about 1700.

### CHANTRIES AND FRATERNITIES.

In very early times there were undoubtedly chantries in East Grinstead. A chantry in the church was founded in 1325 by William de Holyndale, who was M.P. for the Borough of East Grinstead. It was endowed with lands in the parish and rents out of the Manors of Imberhorne and Duddleswell. These chantries often formed part of a church and were built and founded by someone who paid a priest to chant masses (hence their name), generally daily, for the soul of the donor or for the souls of persons named by him. The priest sometimes lived in a chamber or parvise over the porch of the church. Old East Grinstead Church had such a porch with a chamber above. A pension of £5 a year was granted to the last incumbent of the East Grinstead chantry when all such were dissolved in 1547.

There was a fraternity and chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1603, but perhaps not located in the town. It owned lands here, however, and in the year named they were returned as valued at £35. 18s. The chantry of St. Catherine has already been referred to in the opening chapter. Established, it is supposed, for the benefit of those who were too feeble to walk as far as East Grinstead Church, there was a chapel at Brambletye as early as 1273, and at East Grinstead on January 11th, 1389, writs for the returns of all guilds in the parish were proclaimed by John Bradebrugg, who is described as "Bailiff of the Liberty of John, King of Castile and Leon." This is John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster and Lord of the Honour of the Eagle. He took the kingly title on marrying Constance, heiress of

Don Pedro, King of Castile. Unfortunately this return does not seem to have been preserved. The "true worth" of the chantry of Brambletye was put at 30s. in 1357-8, when a valuation was made of all benefices.

### ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin is not yet completed, but has been in use about 15 years. Its foundation stone was laid by the Ven. Archdeacon Sutton, acting for Bishop Durnford, on July 7th, 1891. That part of the church at present in use has been erected and furnished at a cost of £4,686. In addition a sufficient endowment has been provided to enable the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to contribute £100 a year on their usual terms. The Vicarage is practically completed at a cost of about £1,700 and stands on land adjoining the church and which was purchased some years ago for £300. The organ has been partially erected at a cost of £600. The building was not consecrated until July 1st, 1905, fourteen years after its commencement, the ceremony being performed by Dr. Wilberforce, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese. On December 11th, 1905, the King signed an Order in Council assigning a district chapelry to the Church, the district in question comprising the whole of the parish which lies to the north and west of the high level line from Imberhorne Bridge to East Grinstead Station, and the low level line from East Grinstead to the Surrey boundary, except that portion which had already been assigned to the district of Felbridge. The Rev. W. W. Handford was appointed Curate-in-Charge of the Church at its establishment and he is now its Vicar. Mr. Handford was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, and obtained his B.A. degree in 1886 and M.A. in 1890. He was ordained a Deacon in 1888 and Priest in 1889 in the Diocese of S. Albans. Prior to his residence in East Grinstead he was Curate of Castle Hedingham, Essex.

# NONCONFORMIST AND ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES.

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## CHAPTER V.

It was about a century ago that Nonconformity gained a sufficient hold in this town to justify the establishment of a place of worship for the promulgation of doctrines other than those taught in the Established Churches of the land. Since that time there has been a great growth in all phases of religious life, and the history of each place of worship is hereafter briefly outlined.

### THE COUNTESS OF HUNTINGDON'S CHURCH.

Zion Chapel, the first Nonconformist place of worship erected in East Grinstead, was opened for public service on April 23rd, 1811, when that famous man, the Rev. Rowland Hill, was one of the preachers. The necessary funds had been provided from the Countess of Huntingdon's Trust. The foundation stone was laid on July 2nd of the preceding year by the two sons of Mr. John Burt, of Stone House, Forest Row, in the presence of about 200 persons. A month after the chapel was opened the first Sunday School in the district was started by Mr. Burt, and at the beginning 50 boys and 54 girls put in an appearance, but before a year had passed the scholars numbered close on 400. They came for miles to get the benefits of the education imparted, and the school flourished exceedingly. The children from the Poor House were, after a time, allowed to attend, but the then Vicar of East Grinstead, the Rev. Richard Taylor, stepped in, and by some means prevented this. In the

old register he is described as "a dog in the manger who will not either teach the children or let them be taught."

But later Vicars of East Grinstead wiped away this reflection, the first Sunday School in connection with the Parish Church being established in 1848, the necessary funds having been raised by means of a series of dramatic readings given by Mr. R. Crawford in Thompson's corn store, and commenced as long before as May 2nd, 1845. As showing to what free use wine was then put, it is interesting to note that at a treat given to the scholars of this school on Nov. 20th, 1849, every child present was given a glass of wine, though the few who professed temperance sought to induce the Vicar and teachers to abandon the idea. The late Lord Colchester soon after opened a school at Forest Row, and, others also springing up, the attendance at Zion naturally began to dwindle, though for nearly 40 years the number on the register exceeded 300. In the early days the anniversaries were of such a nature as to attract the children. An old record states that in 1812, after service, 341 children, 50 teachers and visitors, and 15 of his own family, "400 souls in all," were entertained at Stone House to a dinner of "cold rounds of beef and plumb puddings." This was repeated a year later.

The registers contain some very quaint records. The worst boys in the school were named Ellis and this shows a sad decadence, as they, possibly, were descendants of Anne Tree, one of the three martyrs burnt in East Grinstead. One girl, named Gorringe, drowned her mistress's baby in a copper of water and her parents believed it was religion drove her to commit this awful act, so they at once withdrew the other members of the family from the school. To these particulars the recorder adds a note: "Dreadful idea." In another case two girls named Chapman were taken away because they found that if they went to church instead of chapel they could do a better trade with the milk they sold in the town. Self-preservation 80 years ago was evidently as keenly thought of as it is to-day.



The house adjoining the chapel was added in 1813 and the vestry was built in 1862 and opened on April 9th. The chapel underwent extensive repairs in 1880.

The following is as complete a list of ministers as can be compiled from such records as are still in existence:—

Rev. A. Start, appointed 1813. Died at Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

Rev. Geo. Mottram, appointed 1820. Died at Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

Rev. James Trego, appointed 1825.

Rev. W. Alldridge, appointed 1829.

Rev. Cole.

Rev. J. Blomfield, preached his farewell sermon March 24th, 1844.

Rev. Robinson, preached his first sermon March 31st, 1844.

Rev. Gibb, afterwards went to America.

Rev. W. Sisterson, Dec. 9th, 1855, to Dec. 12th, 1858.

Rev. D. Davies, appointed without the church members being consulted, March 27th, 1879.

Rev. E. E. Long, Aug. 15th, 1869, to Jan. 28th, 1877.

Rev. W. A. Linnington, appointed Oct. 6th, 1878.

Rev. Joseph Bainton, appointed July 1st, 1888, now at Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

Rev. J. Campbell began his ministry June 28th, 1903.

Burials formerly took place in the tiny piece of ground in front of the chapel and the last of these interments was the occasion of a very remarkable demonstration. On May 13th, 1846, a young man named George Pobgee died at the age of 23. He was a very intelligent fellow and possessed high educational attainments. He had publicly expressed his scepticism in regard to religion, so the Rev. C. Nevill, the then vicar, declined to allow the relations to inter the body in the family vault in the churchyard, and himself picked out a place for burial close to the back door of the Rose beerhouse, where the Pobgees resided, so that the body should be brought no further into the churchyard than was absolutely necessary. He declined to read the burial service or allow anyone else to do so. The relations refused to fall in with the conditions and the body remained unburied for 10 days. Then the Dissenters offered to bury the young fellow in front of Zion Chapel. This offer was accepted and the funeral on May 23rd was the

occasion of an immense gathering. A Mr. Veal, of Forest Row, read the burial service.

### MOAT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

According to the Trust Deeds of this church it is to be used "for the public worship of God, and other religious and philanthropic purposes, according to the principles and usages of Protestant Dissenters of the Congregational Denomination, called Independents, being Pædo-Baptists," *i.e.*, those who believe in infant baptism. The Congregational Connexion first established itself in East Grinstead about 1866, beginning with Sunday services in the old Town Hall, conducted by an Evangelist named Parry, of the Nottingham Institute. The Rev. Benjamin Slight had given up his work at Tunbridge Wells, and at his instigation it was decided to erect a church and mainly by his instrumentality the necessary funds were raised, but of the thousand pounds collected only £5 was subscribed by persons residing in the town, so small was the Nonconformist interest. On October 1st, 1868, Mr. Joshua Wilson, who was Treasurer to the Home Missionary Society, and Mr. John Finch, both of Tunbridge Wells, acting as Trustees, purchased from the late Mr. Edward Steer, for £191. 2s., the plot of land at the corner of London and Moat Roads, with a frontage of 91 feet to the former and 102 feet to the latter. On December 7th, 1870, they purchased for £115 an adjoining plot with a frontage of 79 feet to Moat Road. On December 13th following, Messrs. Wilson and Finch conveyed their interests in the first plot to the Church Trustees, namely: Rev. B. Slight, of Ashurst Wood; Rev. J. Radford Thomson, of Tunbridge Wells; Messrs. W. H. Steer and Wm. Clark, of East Grinstead; E. Steer, of Turners Hill; James Waters, of Forest Row; and J. Towlson, W. Brackett, J. Whitem Hawkins and E. H. Strange, of Tunbridge Wells. The second plot was handed over to the survivors of these Trustees on March 5th, 1874.

The title deeds to the property contain what is rarely found in such documents, namely, a schedule specifying

the doctrinal beliefs necessary in those who occupy the property. They are:—

1. The Divine and special inspiration of the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament and their sole authority and entire sufficiency as the rule of faith and practice.
2. The Unity of God, with the proper Deity of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
3. The depravity of man and the absolute necessity of the Holy Spirit's agency for man's regeneration and sanctification.
4. The Incarnation of the Son of God in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, the universal sufficiency of the atonement by His death, and free justification of sinners by faith alone in Him.
5. Salvation by grace, and the duty of all men to believe in Christ.
6. The Resurrection of the dead and the Final Judgment, when the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment and the righteous into life eternal.

The church was built by the late Mr. Edward Steer at an expense of just over £1,000 and was opened on April 5th, 1870, the whole cost up to date having been met. The opening services were conducted by the Rev. Joshua Harrison, then a popular minister in London, and who had been at college with Mr. Slight. Various ministers supplied the pulpit until the Rev. J. T. Maxwell, who had preached here on August 14th and 28th, 1870, began his fixed ministry on January 1st, 1871. His congregation on the morning of the opening day consisted of 11 adults and a few children, and in the evening of 22 persons. But by the end of February the chapel was crowded at all services and money came in well. By June, 1871, £1,335. 7s. 8d. had been raised and this had more than paid for both plots of land and the building of the church. On April 30th, 1872, Mr. Maxwell was publicly ordained and the church formally constituted. A service of Communion plate was, at the close of this meeting, presented to the church by the Pastor's mother. The plate now in use was given by Mr. Gaius Idiens, of Blindley Heath. By the end of 1872 the church was self-supporting, and from January, 1873, managed its own finances and affairs according to Congregational usage. A school had been established, under the superintendency of the

late Mr. Thomas Cramp, in May, 1870, and the school buildings to accommodate it, which cost £600, were opened on April 29th, 1874. Mr. Maxwell gave notice of his intention to resign on September 28th, 1875, leaving on November 1st of that year. He was succeeded a year later by the Rev. J. Brantom, whose ministry lasted from September 25th, 1876, to August 24th, 1884. While he was in charge the manse was built at a cost of over £800; a warming apparatus was installed in the church and the existing organ was obtained. The foundation stones of the manse were laid on June 4th, 1878, by Mrs. and Miss Brantom, Mr. T. H. W. Buckley and others, and the house was formally dedicated on November 25th following. The total debt on the manse was liquidated by the end of 1882 and the organ was opened on January 30th, 1884. Mr. Brantom was succeeded, some three months after his departure, by the Rev. J. J. Brooker, who began his ministry on January 3rd, 1886, and resigned on December 2nd, 1891. The Rev. F. J. Austin began his charge of the church on July 3rd, 1892, and continued until March, 1899. Twelve months later the Rev. W. Hipkin undertook the pastorate, preaching his first sermon on April 1st, 1900. He left to go to Canada on July 22nd, 1903. The present minister is the Rev. W. H. Edwards, B.A., whose pastorate dates from May 1st, 1904. Since he has been in charge new and spacious vestries have been added.

### THE WESLEYANS.

The Wesleyan community began operations in East Grinstead on Sunday, April 14th, 1878, when they hired the Public Hall for religious services and continued them until their chapel opposite was ready. The Rev. John Mack started the services. The purchase of land and the erection of chapel and school room cost about £2,800. Two foundation stones were laid, one by Mr. R. W. Perks, who subsequently became M.P. for the South Division of Lincolnshire and President of the Wesleyan Methodist Twentieth Century Million Fund,

and the other by Mr. John Turner, of Langton, but, contrary to the usual custom, those foundation stones have never yet borne an inscription. The existing chapel was opened on March 16th, 1881, by the then President of the Conference (Dr. E. E. Jenkins). East Grinstead had been made part of the Tunbridge Wells circuit in 1879 and continued as such until 1902, when it became amalgamated with the Sussex Mission, which has its head quarters at Lewes. Appended is a complete list of local ministers, with the year of their appointment:—

1878. Rev. W. A. Labrum.

1881. Rev. V. W. Pearson, now Principal of the Sheffield Training College for Pupil Teachers.

1884. Rev. D. W. Barr.

1886. Rev. T. L. Walton, died at New Cross, Jan. 22nd, 1894.

1889. Rev. W. C. Bourne.

1892. Rev. A. E. Raw.

1895. Rev. Frank Edwards.

1898. Rev. Austin Davey, died at East Grinstead, 1901.

1901. Rev. Allan Parsons.

1902. Rev. E. Hugh Morgan.

1905. Rev. J. G. Gill.

The following were the first appointed Trustees of the Chapel:—Messrs. H. A. Perkins and Frank Skinner, East Grinstead; S. W. Jenks, Ashurst Wood; Joseph Wilson, Crawley Down; Richard W. Tregoning, Worth; John Newman, Copthorne; Henry W. Andrew, Lingfield; John Turner, Langton; John B. Wells, Wm. G. Harris, Wm. H. Coates, Jos. H. Nye, Benj. Pomfret and Wm. Oliver, Tunbridge Wells; Wm. Baldwin, Tonbridge; and John Beauchamp, Highgate, London. Of these only Messrs. Turner, Jenks, Newman, Pomfret and Skinner now hold office. The local Trustees appointed to fill vacancies are Messrs. G. H. Broadley, A. W. True and A. G. Reeves.

## THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The adherents of the Church of Rome early found opponents in East Grinstead. On February 23rd, 1813, several of the inhabitants of the Borough and its vicinity petitioned Parliament, setting forth that they observed—

with astonishment and alarm the persevering efforts of the Roman Catholics to obtain admission to all offices of trust and authority, both

Civil and Military, and to the exercise of legislative functions, and that it is with unfeigned satisfaction that they see their fellow subjects of the Romish Church freed from all pains and penalties on account of their religion, and in the full enjoyment of the blessings of toleration; but the Petitioners feel it their bounden duty, not only to themselves, but to posterity, to resist their endeavours (notwithstanding the numerous concessions already made to them) to get possession of political power and legislative authority, and thereby to destroy that Protestant ascendancy to which the people of this country are indebted, under Providence, for the establishment of their liberties on a firm and solid basis; for they consider it as a fixed and unalterable principle of our glorious Constitution, as settled at the Revolution, that the Legislative and Executive Authorities of this Protestant Country can be administered only by Protestants; and that the Petitioners regard the Laws by which that principle is established as no less sacred and inviolable than Magna Charta and the Habeas Corpus Act; and they implore the House steadfastly to reject all applications for the repeal of those Laws.

All of which had little effect. In 1850 there was again a stir against the aggressiveness of the Roman Catholics, and at a public meeting held in the town on November 25th addresses to the Queen and Bishop of the Diocese were adopted, praying them to curb the energies of the Pope's emissaries. So far as is known the first recognised place of worship which the fraternity possessed was the chapel established by Sir Edward Blount at Imberhorne. The mission here was superintended by the monks from the Franciscan Monastery at Crawley, and soon after its establishment Sir Edward arranged for a school to be started for Catholic children. Instruction was for some time given in an improvised school room in a granary at Imberhorne. Later, the Catholic schools now in existence between the mansion and the town were built at Sir Edward's expense. They are under the charge of several Sisters of Mercy, and a small convent is attached. About 80 children there receive an excellent education.

The Roman Catholic Church in the London Road, dedicated to "Our Lady and St. Peter," is a massive structure in the Early Norman style. It was built at the expense of Lady Blount, who, however, did not live to see its completion, and was opened on October 2nd, 1898. The Rev. J. Burke has been the priest-in-charge from that time to the present.

## OTHER PLACES OF WORSHIP.

The Rocks Chapel formerly stood in the corner of Old Road, facing the East Court Estate. It was established in the year 1847 by members of the Charlwood family and others, who withdrew from the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion in April of that year. They made shift for a time in a temporary room and opened the chapel on Good Friday, March 29th, 1850, as a Congregational Church; 20 years later the Primitive Methodists occupied it, and it continued in existence until Moat Church was established, when its supporters gradually dwindled and it was soon closed. On Sept. 24th, 1861, a chapel, built by Mr. Berger, was opened at Saint Hill.

Providence Chapel, in the London Road, was built in 1891 and is occupied by the sect known as Strict Baptists. It has no resident minister.

The Salvation Army commenced its operations in East Grinstead on Feb. 5th, 1887.

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# SACKVILLE COLLEGE.

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## CHAPTER VI.

FOR nearly 300 years the fortunes of this institution have been very closely interwoven with the history of East Grinstead.

The College was founded by Robert, second Earl of Dorset, a man of great ability and who spoke, which was rare in those days, several languages with much fluency. His father was the famous Thomas Sackville, Queen Elizabeth's High Treasurer and one of the Judges who sent the Duke of Norfolk to the headsman's block for his complicity in the alleged attempt to get Mary Queen of Scots placed on the English Throne. Through the founder of Sackville College these two families became closely united, for this eldest son of the High Treasurer married Margaret, the only daughter of the beheaded Duke. He held the title but a short time, dying on February 27th, 1608-9, at the comparatively early age of 48, having made his will on February 8th of the same year. It contained the following :—

Whereas I have been long and still am purposed to build and erect an Hospital or College in the said Town or Parish of East Grinstead, in the County of Sussex, and to bestow on the building thereof the sum of one thousand pounds, or such a sum as shall be necessary, and to endow the same with a rent charge of £330 by the year, to be issuing out of all and singular my lands and tenements in the said County of Sussex, or elsewhere within the Realm of England, for ever, towards the relief of one and thirty single and unmarried persons, thereof one and twenty to be men and the other ten to be women, there to live, to pray, serve, honour, and praise Almighty God: I therefore will and devise that mine executors, if I shall not live to perform the same in my life-time, shall bestow a sufficient sum of money in the purchase of a fit place in the said Town or Parish of East Grinstead, to thereupon erect and build a convenient house, of brick and stone, with rooms of habitation for the said one and thirty persons, employing and bestowing thereupon such reasonable sums of money as they shall think fit in their discretions, and that they shall incorporate the same, according to the laws and statutes of this Realm, by the name of Sackville College for the poor.



When the building was commenced is now unknown. It is supposed that much of the stone and timber used came from Buckhurst, the old mansion there being dismantled about this time. The earliest date recorded is 1619, which is on the knocker that used to adorn the great door, and also on a triangular shield in the hall, inscribed, "I pray God bless my lord of Dorset, and my ladie, and all their posteritie. Ano. do. 1619." The College was evidently in use by this time; we know it was on April 11th, 1622, for the parish registers record the first burial from Sackville College on that date. A contemporary document says:—

Richard Sackville, Lord Buckhurst, was, after the death of his father, the third Earle of Dorset of that family, and is now living Anno. 1622. Hee finished the aforesaid College beganne by his father, and new built our Lady Chappell at Withyham, in Sussex, where his Ancestors lye buried.

A draft of a Bill laid before the House of Lords on February 14th, 1620-1, recited, "The executors of the will have bought lands and have begun to build at East Grinstead; but the College or Hospital has not been incorporated, and the endowment intended to be given thereto is liable to uncertainty in consequence of entails and incumbrances of the Earl's estates." The Act for establishing the College was not passed until 1624, though the first draft of the Bill had been laid before the House of Lords ten years earlier and read a first time. The Charter of Incorporation, still preserved in the College, was granted it by Charles I., on July 8th, 1631. The statutes governing the College, and based on the provisions of the founder's will, were approved in the same year. They forbade any inmate to "lodge or receive any person in the house, or secretly entertain any stranger;" to ever be out, without permission, for more than twelve hours at a time, or to ever secretly use "any dicing, carding, or unlawful games for any money or money's worth." The last rule, however, was relaxed at Christmas-time, for then they were allowed to play publicly, but "in noe sort in any corners or private rooms." Regular fines were to be imposed for secret

feasting, excessive drinking, swearing and frequenting taverns. The doors were to be open in the winter from seven a.m. to seven p.m., and in the summer an hour earlier and an hour later. The hour of closing in the summer is now nine p.m. All fines were to be put in a "box or hutch" fixed in the chapel, and were to go towards the College repairs. The first record of the opening of this box is on June 12th, 1718, when it was found to contain only 5s. 9d. During the next 12 years, however, the fines amounted to £26. The fines box has long ceased to exist.

The College had not long been established before it became involved in a disastrous series of law-suits lasting over 60 years. The founder's son, Earl Richard, sold many of the family estates and the purchasers were not told, or said they were not told, of the rent charges on the land and which formed the sole income of the College. They declined to pay, so the inmates appointed Thomas Maynard and William Vargis to commence action. On February 8th, 1631, the Court of Chancery ordered Lord William Howard, the surviving executor under Earl Roberts' will, to make good the yearly sum of £330. The order seems to have had but little effect, for it is on record that on July 5th, 1632, the poor brethren were "left destitute of all relief and maintenance and are ready to perish for want of bread." The Court thereupon ordered Lord William to pay up £200 at once or go to prison. He paid the money. Then came the Civil Wars and the impossibility of enforcing the decrees of any Court of Law. Once more money failed to come in. The College inmates were reduced to the lowest possible state of destitution and five of them actually died of starvation. Their condition at this time is thus described in an affidavit, dated November 3rd, 1648, by Emery Allen, one of the inmates, who affirmed that:—

William Vergis, late Warden of the College, lived in great want and misery because the pay was detained from the College and was forced to pawn or sell his gown for bread, and had not wherewith to subsist, but did merely starve for want of subsistence, having nothing

wherewith to relieve himself or to satisfy his creditors; that William Harman, late one of the almsmen of the College, lived in great misery for a long time for want of his pay, ran into debt, sold his bed and lay upon straw, and, though he had two gatherings made for him in East Grinstead Church, at last starved for want of sustenance; another almsman lived in great misery for a long time, went about the country begging and finally died for want of sustenance; whilst other almsmen have been forced to run into debt and are very likely to starve if speedy relief be not given them.

On the establishment of the Commonwealth, action was again commenced and between the years 1645 and 1656 Edward Lucas, the receiver, managed to get in a good sum of money, but still leaving arrears of £2,389. On January 23rd, 1663, the Earl of Thanet was sent to prison for ignoring an order to pay up some of these arrears, and the money was then forthcoming. This nobleman was one of the chief of those who defended this lengthy and disastrous law-suit. His defence was fully set forth in his answer to a petition presented to the House of Lords on August 11th, 1648, by the inmates of the College. He contended that:—

The persons calling themselves the poor of Sackville College were not placed there by the heirs of Robert Earl of Dorset, and ought not therefore to have any benefit from the gift of the founder; the Earl of Thanet acknowledges that in right of his wife he holds lands late the property of Richard Earl of Dorset, but he conceives that they are not liable in law to the charge nor to the decree in Chancery to which he and his wife were no parties, but that the rent-charge should issue solely out of the Manors of Buckhurst, Munckloe, Hendall and Fiscaredge, which he trusts to prove by review in Chancery; not only are the petitioners not placed in the College according to the will of the founder, but they are not qualified for an hospital, few of them being resident in the College, some of them tradesmen abroad, and many of debauched and most of idle lives.

Slowly the suit dragged itself on and did not finally end until 1700, the ultimate result being that £113. 7s. 3d. of the annual College income was extinguished and the revenue permanently reduced to about £217.

This is derived from property scattered all over the south of England. A few of the rent charges have been redeemed during latter years by the payment of a capital sum and its investment in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. annuities to yield an equivalent income. On January 24th, 1899, Mr. William Davey, of Brighton, paid £46. 13s. 4d. to redeem

£1. 3s. 4d. a year charged on three pieces of land, part of the Manor of Brighthelmstone; on September 30th, 1902, Lieut.-Col. C. A. M. Warde paid £4. 13s. 4d. to redeem 2s. 4d. a year charged on Kent Hatch Farm, Westerham, belonging to him; on the same date Mr. Francis Verrall, Lord of the Manor of Southover, Lewes, redeemed three separate charges of 11d., 4s. and £2 on land called the Hydes, at Lewes, by paying £90, and on November 4th, of the same year, the Corporation of the City of London freed themselves for ever from paying £1. 5s. 8d. a year charged on 54, 57 and 57a, Shoe Lane, City, by a purchase of £51. 6s. 8d. annuities. The following table gives the other sources of income:—

Land or Estate.	Owner.	Amount of Rent charge.		
		£	s.	d.
Manor of Michelham Park Gate..	Lord Sackville ....	11	13	4
„ Milton .....	„ ....	8	9	2
„ Lullington .....	„ ....	9	3	8
„ Hangleton .....	„ ....	14	5	10
„ Chiddingly .....	„ ....	3	0	8
„ Imberhorne .....	Mr. Edward Blount.	2	9	0
„ Knowle .....	Lord Sackville ....	2	6	8
The Rectory of East Grinstead ..	„ ....	1	3	4
„ Manor „ ..	Lord Sackville and Earl De la Warr	2	4	
Lands of St. Catherine's, East Grinstead .....	„ „	1	3	4
Chantry-lands, East Grinstead....	„ „	11	8	
Priors „ ....	„ „	5	8	
A messuage „ ....	„ „	2	4	
Two burgages „ ....	„ „	1	9	
For other various properties.....	„ „	1	11	4½
Manor of Swanburgh .....	Earl De la Warr ..	15	3	4
Diggens Land, Kingston .....	„ ..	1	3	4
Manor of Blackham .....	„ ..	9	16	0
„ Cullinghurst .....	„ ..	1	15	0
„ Broome .....	„ ..	3	13	6
John A. Bowrie's land in Kingston	„ ..	7	0	
Messuage called Coppers Bowker, in Kingston .....	„ ..	11	8	
Manor of Chertness .....	„ ..	5	8	6
„ Framfield .....	„ ..	9	4	
„ Buckhurst .....	„ ..	2	18	4
„ Alchornds .....	„ ..	11	8	
„ East Bourne Measey ..	„ ..	2	4	
„ Muncklow .....	„ ..	7	19	10
„ Fiscaridge .....	„ ..	4	9	10

Land or Estate.	Owner.	Amount of Rent charge.		
		£	s.	d.
Manor of Lewes .....	Earl De la Warr ..	1	3	4
Part of Stoneland .....	„ ..	2	6	8
Dorset House, garden, &c., Kent..	„ ..	5	16	8
Sir H. Compton's messuage.....	„ ..	2	6	8
The Vechery Wood, Maresfield ..	Mr. R. S. Samuel, M.P. ....		1	2
An acre and a half in Kingston ..	Earl De la Warr ..			3½
Manor of Bolebrook .....	„ ..	8	3	4
„ St. Tyes .....	„ ..	4	0	6
„ Houndean, Lewes .....	Marquess of Aber- gavenny .....	6	8	4
Five parcels of Brook meadow called Thackwood .....			11	8
Pound Farm, Withyham .....	Mr. J. R. Haig ....	2	5	6
Bartletts, „ .....	Earl De la Warr ..		12	0
Summerford, „ .....	„ ..		6	0
Tophill, „ .....	„ ..	1	19	7
Inn at Withyham .....	„ ..		16	0
„ Nutley .....	„ ..		1	2
Manor of Reigate .....	Lady Henry Somerset .....	9	5	4
46 to 53, Shoe Lane, London ....	Messrs. Pontifex and Wood .....	3	17	8
132, Salisbury Square, London ..	Mr. W. G. King ..		11	8
Rectory of St. Dunstons, W. ....	Rev. L. James ....		14	0
Manor of Wilmington .....	The Duke of Devon- shire .....	20	0	0
Living of Rottingdean .....		1	4	10
„ Southover, Lewes ....		17	4	8
The Shelleys, Lewes (formerly known as The Vine) .....	Mr. Richard Greene.		11	8
Manor of Claversham .....	Mrs. Miles, Croydon.	2	16	0
„ Allington .....	Lord Monk Bretton.	2	19	6
„ Meeching, Newhaven ..	Earl of Sheffield ..	4	0	6
„ Holywych .....	Capt. F. Maitland..	1	5	2
Mill Field, Cowden .....			4	0
Ware Land, „ .....	Trustees of the Harvey Estate ..		5	10
The Cemetery, Lewes .....	All Saints and Cliffe Burial Board ....			11

There is little more to add concerning the College itself. During the last 200 years it has quietly served its intended purpose, but to a limited extent, and has undergone various improvements. The hall and porch have been restored, the belfry (which had been beaten down by a storm on November 26th, 1703) and the

chapel re-erected at a cost of £700, the foundation stone being laid on August 1st, 1850, the latter decorated; and the massive roof slates re-laid.

On February 25th, 1851, there was a riot at the College in consequence of some objections made by the relatives and others to the form of burial service it was proposed to observe at the funeral of a female inmate named Alchin. The relatives and a body of townspeople went to the College in the afternoon, got the body, and carried out the funeral as they desired. In the evening the mob re-assembled and the College windows were smashed. Ten of the townspeople were subsequently summoned and seven of them were sent for trial at Lewes Assizes. They subsequently issued a public apology for their conduct and at the Assizes pleaded guilty. The case against them was thereupon not pressed, and they were bound over to come up for judgment if called upon.

It is not now a place where pensioners are starved to death, for the inmates afford several instances of longevity. On October 2nd, 1819, there died Elizabeth Knight, who had lived in the College 52 years, and on March 21st, 1829, Mary Knight, who had been for 42 years a pensioner in the institution, breathed her last. Nicholas Piggott, who died on December 21st, 1784, was a pensioner for exactly the same period. At the present time there are 18 inmates, 14 women and four men, of whom seven of the women and all of the men get allowances of £14 a year, the remainder getting their rooms only.

The right of appointing the Warden, who gets his residence and £28 a year, has always rested with the heirs of the founder, the privilege, to-day, being in the hands of Earl De la Warr, who, on a vacancy arising, is supposed to appoint within "the space of three score days." If he neglects so to do then the assistants and inmates meet on the afternoon of the first Sunday after this allotted time has expired and propound the name of one of their own number to the Patron for appointment.

The following ordinance setting out the Warden's duties is very quaint:—

If the Warden shall, in anything, neglect his duty and swerve from the orders and statutes of the said College or Hospital then being in force, in regard he should be a light and lanterne to the rest, and his bad example very pernicious to the whole company; the two Assistants shall hear and determine any question arising between him and the thirty Brethren or Sisters, or any of them; and if in their judgments he shall appear faulty, they do admonish him thereof, as also of any other error they shall observe in him, *toties quoties*, to the third admonition and thereupon to advertise the heirs male of the body of the said Robert, Earl of Dorset, and he either to cause the Warden to reform himself or else to expell and displace him if he continue obstinate and perverse.

The following condition is now more honoured in the breach than the observance, but it shows that the introduction of tobacco had by no means met with universal favour in 1631:—

If either the Warden or any brother or sister do take any tobacco in the house, or keep any in the said Colledge or Hospitall, shall forfeit five shillings, to be deducted out of his or her next quarter's wages . . . for that the same is offensive to many, procureth much drinking and other inconveniences most meet to be forborn by all and used by none.

The ordinances further set forth that the Warden, the assistants and all the inmates should dine together each quarter day "at their equal charges, soe it be not respectively under twelve pence and not above two shillings a peece, the Warden to be double to any of the others."

The Warden had further to see the "Brethren and Sisters morning and evening, to meet at a certain due hour in their Chappel, there to pray, serve, honour and praise Almighty God," and he, or such as he might appoint, was to read the service and prayers.

The name of the first Warden is now unknown. Appended are brief particulars of all his successors:—

2. William Vargis was appointed in 1638. He had been joint collector and procurator for the College since 1629. He was buried in the Parish Church on April 6th, 1646.

3. The Rev. Reyner Herman was appointed on July 7th, 1646, and held the office ten years. He carried on a Grammar School, and among his pupils was Richard Kidder, afterwards Bishop of Bath and Wells.

On leaving the College Herman was presented to a good living in Sussex, but being a Royalist Richard Cromwell accounted him a malignant and declined to sanction his institution. Kidder was then at Cambridge, and he was instrumental in getting his old master appointed head master of Stamford Grammar School. He subsequently became rector of Tinwell, in Rutland, where he was buried in 1668.

4. George Parkyns was appointed in 1657 and died in 1663.

5. William Bushey, 1663, to Jan. 21st, 1677.

6. Joh. Cutteford was first sent to the College by the Earl of Dorset on Aug. 10th, 1673, as a pensioner. He had previously lived at Bristol, where he attained to civic honours and was one of the chief inspectors of the port. At the Restoration he was granted a certificate of loyalty. He seems to have fallen on hard times, and when he was appointed to a pension in the College he was described by the Earl as "very aged, and a fit object of my charity." He was subsequently appointed collector for the Earl of Dorset's estates in Sussex, and stepped into the Wardenship on the death of William Bushey, holding it until March 24th, 1680.

7. Rev. Thomas Grice, appointed on Aug. 20th, 1680, was also incumbent of Gosport. He held the office until June, 1684.

8. Richard Jux, previously an inmate of the College since Aug. 18th, 1676; was Warden for nine months only, July 18th, 1684, to April 8th, 1685.

9. Rev. Thomas Hardmett held office less than seven months, May 22nd, 1685, to Dec. 5th, 1685.

10. Rev. Thomas Winterbottom was appointed the same day as his predecessor was buried, Dec. 8th, 1685. He resigned after holding office 31 years. On May 12th, 1687, the Rev. John Wood, Rector of Horsted Keynes, made an agreement with this Warden that for £10 a year the latter should read Divine service every Sunday and Saint's day at Horsted Keynes, and preach a sermon when required at 8s. extra for each sermon.

11. John Millington, a native of Coventry and long in the Dorset service, was admitted as a pensioner on Nov. 4th, 1710, was made Assistant Warden on Aug. 27th, 1715, and stepped into the office of Warden on Sept. 29th, 1716, the only person who ever occupied all three positions.

12. John Bright, 1733 to 1751.

13. William Wood, 1751, to Sept. 14th, 1772.

14. George Knight, April 21st, 1772, to Oct. 7th, 1813, a Wardenship of 41 years, exactly half the length of his life.

15. Thomas Palmer, Nov. 3rd, 1813, died Dec. 4th, 1844. During his term of office he got the Patron to appoint inmates, who, without receiving pensions, should occupy the vacant rooms, and this practice has been continued ever since.

16. Rev. John Mason Neale, D.D. The warrant of this famous Warden bears date May 26th, 1846, eighteen months after his predecessor's death, but he arrived at the College about a month



before his formal appointment. During his *regimé* the dilapidated buildings were completely restored and numerous improvements carried out, the Warden himself spending something like £2,000 on the building during the time he was resident there. The Warden re-established the daily services, from time to time administered the Sacrament of the Holy Communion, and frequently preached. Dr. Gilbert was then Bishop of Chichester, and after a confirmation held in the Parish Church on May 7th, 1847, he visited the College chapel and the next day inhibited Dr. Neale from celebrating Divine worship and from the exercise of clerical functions in his diocese. Dr. Neale, after consulting with the Patron, decided to ignore the inhibition so far as services within the College were concerned. The Bishop appealed to the Court of Arches and a private inquiry was opened in the Parish Church of East Grinstead on April 4th, 1848, and on June 3rd of the same year the case came on for trial. The real point at issue was whether the College was subject to the Bishop's jurisdiction and Sir H. J. Fust, the Judge of the Court of Arches, decided that Dr. Neale was liable to ecclesiastical censure, but the Court would be satisfied with admonishing him to abstain from officiating in future without due authority, that authority being the license of the Bishop. Dr. Neale was condemned in the whole costs. The Bishop remained of the same mind for 13 years, when he virtually withdrew the inhibition, it being formally withdrawn in November, 1863, though Dr. Neale had never, as he himself writes, "withdrawn a single word, nor altered a single practice (except in a few instances by way of going further)." Dr. Neale at once responded by dedicating his "Seatonian Poems" by permission "to the Lord Bishop of Chichester, in token of veneration of his character and office, and of thankfulness for his many labours." Thus was the matter happily and gracefully ended. Dr. Neale died on Aug. 6th, 1866, aged 48 years, greatly loved by the College pensioners. His work in connection with St. Margaret's Sisterhood is dealt with elsewhere.

17. William Hooper Attree, Nov. 28th, 1866, to March 18th, 1872.

18. John Henry Rogers, M.D., March 28th, 1872, to Oct. 18th, 1879, when he died suddenly. He was the founder of the first Cottage Hospital in East Grinstead.

19. George Covey, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A., Dec. 25th, 1879, to July, 1893.

20. James Harrison, the present Warden, was appointed on July 10th, 1893. He was educated at Rossall School, Owen's College, the London Hospital and Edinburgh. He was made a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians at the last named place in 1881, and in the same year became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He is also a Member of the British Medical Association and was for a time senior house surgeon at the Manchester Royal Infirmary. He came to East Grinstead from Devonport, where he was medical attendant to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh and his household and also assistant surgeon to the Royal Albert Hospital in that town. He is at the present time one of the Medical Officers to the East Grinstead General Dispensary and Cottage Hospital, also

Medical Officer of the East Grinstead Workhouse and the High Grove Sanatorium, Public Vaccination Officer for East Grinstead, and Surgeon to the East Grinstead Court of Foresters and Sanctuary of Shepherds.

By his will the founder of the College ordained that “there shall be two of the honest and better sort of the inhabitants of the said town of East Grinstead, associates to the said Warden, to be elected and chosen, from time to time, by me and my heirs for the better government and ordering of the said Hospital or College.” They were each to receive £3. 6s. 8d. per annum. This office of Associate or Assistant Warden has been held by many distinguished people, as the following list will show:—

Edward Iron.

Edward Balder.

Sackville Turner.

Sir Henry Compton, Bart., of Brambletye, son-in-law of the founder, appointed 1628. Sir Henry took more interest in the cause of King Charles than he did in Sackville College. He was one of the Sussex Royalists whose estates were sequestered by an ordinance issued on Aug. 19th, 1643, but he was allowed to compound by paying to Cromwell's Exchequer the sum of £1,372. 2s.

Edward Bender.

John Thacker.

Edward Lucas was elected by the pensioners themselves about 1645. He worked extremely hard in promoting the claims of the inmates to the money left them by the founder, and it was almost solely due to his voluntary exertions that the College was preserved as a charitable institution. He was receiver of the College, and died, deeply mourned, on Nov. 29th, 1667.

Richard Cole.

Rev. R. Crayford, Vicar of East Grinstead, appointed in 1668.

James Linfield, appointed 1674.

Thomas More, appointed 1674.

Rev. John Saywell, DD., Vicar of East Grinstead, appointed 1684.

John Milles, appointed Sept. 29th, 1688.

Thomas Bodle, appointed Sept. 29th, 1689. This sub-warden farmed the land around the College and also owned property in Church Street.

Edmund Head, appointed Sept. 29th, 1706.

John Millington, appointed Aug. 27th, 1715, afterwards Warden.

Richard Still, appointed Sept. 29th, 1716.

Francis Green, appointed Dec. 25th, 1718.

Benjamin Faulconer, appointed March 25th, 1727.

John Thorpe, appointed Sept. 29th, 1727.

Edward Green, appointed March 25th, 1749.

John Smith.

Nathaniel More, 1762.

John Cranston, of East Court, 1767.

Lord George Sackville, appointed Sept. 23rd, 1769. For an account of the life of this famous nobleman see Parliamentary History.

Edward Bodle, June 13th, 1829.

Charles Nairn Hastie, of Placeland, appointed June 13th, 1829, died 25th December, 1860.

Hon. and Rev. R. W. Sackville West, M.A., appointed Aug. 26th, 1848, afterwards Earl De la Warr.

George Lowdell, appointed Aug. 26th, 1848.

John Henry Rogers, M.D., appointed Sept. 12th, 1853, subsequently Warden.

George Elliot Clarke, of Frampost, appointed 1872, died 1879.

Kenneth Robert Murchison, J.P., of Brockhurst, appointed 1873. He bore the expense of erecting the west boundary wall of the College grounds, and one stone, with the following inscription, now almost defaced, was built into it :—

HUNC MURUM  
COLLEGIO SACKVILLENSI  
SUIS IMPENSIS CIRCUMDEDIT  
KENNETHUS ROBERTUS MURCHISONUS  
ANNO SALUTIS MDCCCLXXVI.

Arthur Hastie, of Placeland, appointed 1878, died Nov. 10th, 1901.

Charles Henry Gatty, M.A., D.L., J.P., of Felbridge Place, appointed 1881, died Dec. 12th, 1903.

Arthur Hepburn Hastie, of East Grinstead, and 17, Queen Street, Mayfair, practising as a solicitor at 65, Lincoln's Inn Fields, appointed 17th November, 1901.

Muriel Countess De la Warr, appointed April 8th, 1904, the first lady to hold the office.

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# EAST GRINSTEAD AND ITS MANORS.

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## CHAPTER VII.

THE manorial history of East Grinstead is very vague and it is difficult to identify modern names with the Manors or pieces of Manors referred to in such ancient documents as are accessible to the student of archæology. The old manors were by no means co-terminous with the parish, or even the county, neither did they comprise unbroken estates, but included lands scattered all over the Kingdom.

### GRINSTEAD AND SHEFFIELD GRINSTED.

The Manor of Grinstead is not mentioned in Domesday Book. On September 29th, 1284, Alexander ffoghell (Sergeant of Grensted) returned £2. 10s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. as Queen Eleanor's rents from the Manor of Grensted for one year. In 1346, Edward III. gave it to the Cobham family, it having been forfeited to the Crown by Sir Thomas de Arderne, who had been convicted of rape and murder. According to a return dated January 2nd, 1412, John Halsham had the Manor of Grenstede, and it was then worth £13. Galfredus de Say gave the Manor to the Knights Templars, but by 1468 it had got back again into Royal hands, for Edward IV. granted it to his Queen Consort for life.

In 1565 the Manor was greatly enlarged by the addition of lands in the neighbourhood of Eastbourne, for on December 8th the Manor and demesnes of Wilmington and other possessions of the Dean and Chapter of Chichester in that neighbourhood were conveyed to the Queen that she might grant them to Sir Richard Sackville (Under Treasurer of the Exchequer) and his heirs for ever, the Manor and demesnes of Wilmington to be held of the Crown in capite by the service of the 20th part of a knight's fee and the residue in free socage, as of the

Manor of East Greenstead by fealty only. This Manor of Wilmington was afterwards charged with £20 a year for the support of Sackville College, East Grinstead. It now forms part of the possessions of the Duke of Devonshire.

At an inquest held in East Grinstead on August 19th, 1574, concerning the possessions of Henry Alfrey, an idiot, who had died on March 6th preceding, it appeared that he held certain lands and tenements called Heathland, in Estgrynsted, of Philip, Earl of Surrey, as of his Manor of Sheffield Grensted, by rent of 20s. in free socage; and they were computed to be worth £7.7s. 10d. This same family owned Gulledge, Tilkhurst and other properties.

In 1580, at an inquest held concerning the estates of John Payne, of East Grinstead, it was proved that two burgages and two portlands called Gaynesford, and a cottage called the Forge, were held of Queen Elizabeth in chief, as of her Manor of Estgreensted, the two burgages by fealty and rent of 12d. and the cottage by fealty and rent of 10d., the burgages being worth 53s. 4d. and the cottage 13s. 4d. The same person held another burgage and portland of the same Manor, and these were rented at 17d. and worth 20s. He was also seised of a croft containing three acres and called Shortes Crofte, and a field of seven acres called the Greenefylde, held of Philip, Earl of Arundel, as of his Manor of Shefflyd Greenested by fealty, the former at a rent of 18d. and worth 6s., and the latter at a rent of 7d. and worth 4s.

In 1606 the Manor of Grinstead was rented at £11. 8s. 11½d. per annum, and in 1835 it belonged to the Biddulph family, of Petworth. The Manor of Sheffield Grinsted was purchased, about 60 years ago, by the late Mr. William Pearless, and the Lordship is now held by his two sons, James and Reginald, as his trustees.

### BRAMBLETYE AND LAVERTYE.

The Manor and ruined mansion of Brambletye have, by means of Horace Smith's well-known novel, very little of which is based on fact, acquired a fame which they

scarcely merit. It is undoubtedly the most interesting of the old East Grinstead Manors, but the ruined "castle" was never the scene of the events which are so graphically described in "Brambletye House." It is referred to in Domesday Book as "Branbertie." In the time of Edward the Confessor it was possessed by one Cola, and after the Conquest was held by Ralph, of the Earl of Moreton and Cornwall, half-brother to the Conqueror. His barony subsequently became known as "The Honour of the Eagle," a corruption from the name of Gilbert de l'Aigle, to whom Henry I. gave all Earl Moreton's estates. The term "Honour" was usually applied to a lordship which possessed subsidiary lordships, though at one time no lordship was deemed an "Honour" unless it belonged to the King.

In the reign of Edward I. (1272-1307) the Manor and the right of the patronage to the chapel were vested in the Aldham or Audeham family. The first of the family was Baldwin de Aldham, who succeeded as heir to his mother, Isabella de la Haye, who was heiress of William of Montacute. About 1285 the Bishop of Chichester, John, Prior of Lewes, and Alard, parson of the church of Grenestede, granted license to John de Monte Acuto to set up a private chapel in his house of Lavertye for the use of his mother, probably an infirm or aged woman who was unable to reach the Parish Church. For this privilege Montacute paid the incumbent of the parish a bezant yearly during the mother's lifetime, on the understanding that at her death all divine offices should cease in the chapel at Lavertye. On the death of William of Montacute his widow, Nicholaia, held the hamlet and patronage of the chapel, with knight's fees in Buckhurst and elsewhere.

In 1322 Francis Aldham forfeited his property, including Brambletye and Lavertye. These were granted on April 15th, 1326, to Pancius de Controne, the King's physician, for life, to secure him an annuity of £100 per annum so long as he should stay in this country. Francis de Aldham was at the Battle of Boroughbridge 16th March, 1322, and was taken prisoner, and afterwards sentenced

to be drawn for acts of treason and to be hanged for homicides and robbery committed by him, which sentence was executed at Windsor.

Brambletye seems, however, shortly to have reverted to the Aldhams, for we find (1 Edward III., 1326-7) that a Francis de Aldeham held on the day of his death the Manor of Brambletye of the King in chief, as of the Honour of the Eagle, by the service of half a knight's fee, a whole knight's fee being then 640 acres of land under cultivation. In this family it seems to have continued until 1336, when John, son of John Seyntclere, was declared to be the nearest heir. He died in 1389, and upon an inquisition taken it appeared that he had held Brambletye of the Duke of Lancaster as of the Honour of the Eagle. In 1386-7 John Seyntclere held jointly with Mary, his wife, *inter alia*, the Manors of Brambletye and Lavertye. Thomas Seyntclere is mentioned in 1412 as having lands in East Grinstead of the yearly value of £10, and a certain annuity receivable from the Lordship of Lewes of £20. Thomas Sencler (the name occurs variously spelt), of East Grinstead, Heighton, &c., was at the Battle of Agincourt 25th October, 1415. In 1411-2 John Pelham (a connection of the Seyntclere family) had, *inter alia*, "the Manor of Bembiltye £2, and the Manor of Lavertye, worth nothing beyond reprises;" that is, yearly deductions, duties, charges, &c. According to the Pelham deeds, in 1422, Heyton St. Clare has a certain park called Lavertye. This park and the house were returned as worth nothing, beyond the upkeep of the fencing of the park and of the ditches; to the same park belonged 100 acres of arable land, of which the value per annum was put at 6d. per acre, and 12 acres of meadow valued at 16d. per annum and assessed at 20s. It was then still held of the Duchy of Lancaster as of the Honour of the Eagle.

In 1428 Galfridus Motte, a priest, re-conveyed to William Cheyne, Knt., and others, *inter alia*, his right in the Manor of Brambletye; William Cheyne had lands in Dalynngregg (Dallingridge), in East Grinstead, worth £4 yearly. The Manor of Brambletye was in the

possession of Sir Thomas Seyntclere at his death, 6th May, 1435. He left three daughters co-heiresses—Elizabeth, then aged 12; Eleanor, 11; and Edith, nine years. The property was held of the King by military service and was worth 100s. a year. Brambletye came to his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, who married, firstly, William Lovell, by whom she had one son, Henry, who died, leaving two daughters co-heiresses, Elizabeth and Agnes, and, secondly, she married Richard Lewkenor. On 10th December, 1473, a jury found that Elizabeth, wife of Richard Lewkenor and daughter of Margaret Seyntclere, was the co-heiress of Sir William Bulleyn. Richard Lewkenor is the first person of that name who is described as of Brambletye. He probably built the house at Brambletye which preceded the one now in ruins.

In 1503 died Sir Reginald Bray, who married Catherina, daughter of Nicholas Hussey, who was described as of Brambletye, and was probably a relative of the Lewkenors.

In 1551 a return was made of the extent of all the manors, &c., being the inheritance of Harry WyndSOR, Esq., an idiot (committed to the care of Sir Andrew Dudley), and Constance, wife of Thomas Ryve, Esq., was declared his sister and next heir apparent, his moiety of the Manor of Brambletye and Lavortye being £16 per annum.

In the will of John Shery (archdeacon of Lewes and precentor of St. Paul's), dated 1st August, 1552, proved in November following, he leaves to his nephew, John Monke (possibly John the Monk), "my parte moite and purparte of the Manors of Bravelly and Lainerty in Grynsted and Hartfield." In 1589 William and John Shrev, or Sherry, or Sheref, seem to have been connected with the Manor.

A family of the name of Pickas, Pycas, or Pykas, were at Brambletye *circa* 1579. James Pickas held it in this year. John Payne held the Tanhouse Mead of three acres in East Grinstead of James Pickas, gent., as of his Manor of Brambletie, in free socage by fealty and rent of 7d., the mead being valued at 6s. Drew



Pickesse was returned, 1st October, 1586, as M.P. for East Grinstead, and in 1589 was found seized of the Manor of Brambletye.

On 25th May, 1588, Thomas Cure died seized of the Manor of Lavortye, leaving George his eldest son and heir. This Thomas Cure was the donor of the Seal to the Borough Town of East Grinstead in 1572.

In 1603 Thomas, Lord Buckhurst, possessed the Manor of Brambletye; 1610 to 1621 Richard Earl of Dorset held it of the King as of his Honour of Aquila at the value of £4.

The property next came into the possession of the Comptons, and to Sir Henry Compton is ascribed the building of the house which now stands in ruins.

Henry, Baron Compton, of Compton Wynyates, who died in 1589, married Lady Frances Hastings, who died in 1574, and then Anne, daughter of Sir John Spencer and widow of Lord Monteaule. Sir Henry Compton, of Brambletye, was a son of this second marriage. He married Lady Cecille, daughter of Robert Sackville, Earl of Dorset, who bore him three daughters and four sons. The second son, Henry, was slain in a duel by Lord Chandos and was buried at East Grinstead in June, 1652. The fourth son, Thomas, was the last of the family to possess Brambletye.

The family resided here during part of the Commonwealth, 1649-1659, and James Compton, the son of Sir Henry Compton, died there on 28th July, 1659, and was buried at Withyham, which circumstance disposes of the report that the house was destroyed in the time of Cromwell. The last Court held by the Comptons was on January 13th, 1660, the year of the Restoration, and was the first act of the then proprietor, George Compton, on the return to peaceable times.

Sir James Richards next lived at Brambletye. He was of a French family, his father having come into England with Queen Henrietta Maria, the unfortunate wife of Charles I. For saving several men of war James Richards was knighted and afterwards—February 22nd, 1683-4—was raised to the rank of a baronet, being then

described as "of Brambletye House." He is the last known occupier of the mansion, or castle, as it is now termed. It is said that the owner was suspected of treasonable practices, and officers, on visiting the house, found there a considerable quantity of arms and military stores. The owner, whoever he may have been, was then out hunting, and getting wind of the discovery, never returned to his house. It may have been this same baronet, for he is known to have married, as his second wife, a Spanish lady, named Beatrice Herrera, and to have quitted this country and settled in Spain, where some of his descendants rose to high positions in the army of that country. The fourth baronet was Sir Philip Richards, a general officer in the Spanish service. He married the eldest daughter of the Duke of Montemar, but of this baronet or his descendants nothing further is known.

No Court appears to have been held after 1660 until August 19th, 1714, when the Biddulphs held their first Court. They purchased the Manor about 1673. In 1774 Charles Biddulph, of Burton, near Arundel, was owner of the Manor and of the lands his ancestors purchased. In 1790 John Biddulph held it, and it continued in that family until 1866, when the late Mr. Donald Larnach purchased the land, but not the manorial rights, and built the existing mansion, which was partially destroyed by fire on September 18th, 1903, but immediately re-built.

The present Lords of the Manor are Mr. J. R. Pearless and Mr. R. W. Pearless, of East Grinstead, who hold the lordship jointly as Trustees of their late father, Mr. William Pearless. The Manor, according to the accounts of Mr. Geo. Bankin, who was steward in 1782, consisted chiefly of freehold tenants, who held of the lord by fealty, suit of court, heriot, relief and other services and certain yearly rents. The best beast was due for a heriot, for every tenement of which a tenant died seized. Some of the copyholds were subject to heriot in kind and fineable at the lord's will. Other copyholds were stinted as to heriot and fine.

Lavertye or Lavortye seems to have been a subfeudation of the Manor of Brambletye, and the two have not always been held by the same person. In 1691 John Newnham, the elder, gent., was seized of the Manor of Lavertye and 500 acres of land thereto belonging. In this family it seems to have remained until 1774. In 1793 an Act was passed for investing the fee simple of part of the Manor and estates of Lavertye in East Grinstead, in John Trayton Fuller, of Ashdown House, who was succeeded by his son, Augustus Elliott Fuller, whose daughter Clara married Sir George Tapps, Bart., who afterwards assumed the name of Tapps Gervis. His daughter Clara (Miss Tapps Gervis) is the present life tenant of the Ashdown House Estate and the Manor of Lavortye.

### IMBERHORNE.

This is a very widespread Manor, over which Lord Sackville now exercises rights. In the early days it was in the possession of the Priory of St. Pancras at Lewes, and possibly included a gift of 100 solidates or one hide of land made by Alured de Bendeville and Sibilla his wife to the monks of Lewes and confirmed by King Stephen.

In 1288 Roger de Sautknappe gave up to the Monks of Lewes all the rights which he had in a certain land called Hengteswynde, in the Manor of Hymberhorne. There is an extremely interesting deed preserved of about the year 1336 which, reduced to modern language, shows that Peter de Joceux, then Prior of Lewes, granted to Walter le Fyke and his heirs for ever a field called Feldlonde, which abutted on the road leading from East Grinstead to Imberhorne, on payment of a yearly rent of 4s. and the customary heriots, the new owner to make "suit at our Court of Imberhorne for the said tenement from three weeks to three weeks for ever." He was never to part with it except to the Priory of St. Pancras so long as they were minded to give for it as much as would be offered in good faith by a stranger.

In 1537 the Manor was granted to Thomas, Lord Cromwell. A few years later it came by exchange into the hands of William, Earl of Arundel, who held it for about 12 years and then granted the Manor to the Crown in exchange for other lands. From the Royal hands it passed to the Sackvilles, who have long since sold all the lands, but have retained the manorial rights. In 1567, according to an inquest held at Cokefield to ascertain the estates of Stephen Bord, Lord Bukherst was then the owner of this Manor; Stephen Bord holding Racies of the Manor by fealty and rent of 3d., and numerous records since show that it has never left the possession of the family. The last Courtleet was held at the Crown Hotel, East Grinstead, about 20 years ago, when the only tenant who put in an appearance to do homage and be sworn in on the silver rods was Mr. Head, of Kingscote Nursery. He paid a penny and had a glass of whiskey and a cigar in return. The custom of Borough-English is believed to have at one time prevailed in connection with this Manor—a custom whereby entailed property went to the youngest son. The Plawhatch estate was originally part of the Manor.

### SHOVELSTRODE.

This was a fairly large Manor owned in the 12th and 13th centuries by an important family bearing the same name as the estate. In the reign of Henry VII. it belonged to John Aske, whose family had long held it, but who was convicted of high treason and forfeited his possessions to the King, by whom the Manor was granted, under a patent dated August 23rd, 1536, to Sir John Gage and his heirs. It was charged, at one time, with 6s. a year, due to the King in respect of his Forest of Ashdown.

Sir John Gage, K.G. (1481-1557), of Firle, was Constable of the Tower of London and an eminent statesman and general. His tomb may still be seen in the church of West Firle, with the recumbent figures of himself and his wife beautifully sculptured in marble.

Sir Edward Gage, son of Sir John Gage, K.G., who died on December 26th, 1567, was seized of the Manor and by his will:—

In consideration of her years and the number of children it hath pleased Almighty God to send me of her body, for the which I take myself to be more bound and thankful to Him than for all the worldly goods and treasures, I give to my said well-beloved wife Elizabeth further all the whole rest of my Manors of Hedgecourt and Burstowe and my Manor of Marisfield and all my lands in Estgrinstead.

At an inquest held at Lewes on March 23rd following it appeared that the Manor of Shovelstrode was held of the Queen in chief by service of part of a knight's fee and was worth £14. 19s. 10d.

On April 12th, 1614, John Avenn became tenant of the site and demesne lands of the Manor for 21 years at an annual rental of £55, one fat bullock and six capons. Subsequent owners of all or portions of the Manor were Robert Goodwyn and his son-in-law, John Conyers, who both represented East Grinstead in Parliament, Sir William Gage, Bart. (1718), Sir John Major (1773), Sir John Henniker, Bart. (1787), and the Harcourt family (1835). The early Court Rolls of this Manor are preserved among the manuscripts of Lord Gage, of Firle Park, near Lewes.

### PLACELAND.

This was formerly a Manor known also by the names of Haskenden, Harkenden or Stone Rocks. According to the Burrell MSS. it was contained within the parish of East Grinstead, and on an inquisition held in 1593 William Ridder was found seized of it. In 1627, at a Court held for the Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst, a presentment was made that Robert Goodwyn, the Covenanter M.P. for East Grinstead, held to himself and his heirs “a Manor freely called Stonrocks, alias Haskinden alias Placeland by the rent of 5d. yearly.”

In 1579 John Payne died seized of a field called Conyclappers, held of John Duffeld, jun., as of his Manor of Hakenden in free socage by fealty and rent of 1d., the field being worth £4.

The Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst, also comprised, in East Grinstead, the Lanefeld of 10 acres, Tannershyll of seven acres, and Stonefeeld of 10 acres, Nicholas Lewkenor and Richard Michelborn being the joint Lords a couple of centuries ago.

At a much earlier date there was a religious house known as East Grinstead Place, situate possibly in or near the field now lying between the Institute and Placeland stables. From this is evidently derived the name Placeland. The Moat Pond and the Dean Fields may have had some connection with this religious house. Placeland at one time belonged to Nicholas Firminger, who left it to his wife Frances for life, with remainder to his and her daughter, also named Frances. The family of the present owners, the Hasties, like their cousins, the Nairnes, were settled in Scotland prior to the Jacobite rising of 1745. After the rising many members of both families were attainted by Act of the Scotch Parliament and they fled to the Court of France. Archibald Hastie, with his two sons, Hepburn (who became in 1799 a Director of the Westminster Fire Office) and James, returned to London between 1750 and 1760. They took building leases from the then Duke of Portland and laid out a number of important areas, including Harley Place, Devonshire Place, &c. These leases remained in the family for 99 years, the last of them expiring about 1870. Hepburn's son, Charles Nairne Hastie, was a London solicitor in partnership with the solicitor to the then Duke of Portland, and used to stay with his cousins, the Nairnes of Barnets Place, who owned much of the parishes of West Hoathly and Horsted Keynes. While there he met and married the only daughter of Nicholas and Frances Firminger, and so became in time possessed of Placeland, where he came to reside soon after the marriage. Representatives of the family have ever since been in residence there. A former occupier of the property was John Ready, one of whose relatives entered the Army and rose to the rank of Major-General, being afterwards appointed Governor of the Isle of Man. His daughter Mary married Dr. Charles Milner, and their

son is Lord Milner, the famous statesman and late High Commissioner of South Africa.

### DUDDLESWELL.

In 1650 this Manor comprised in the parish of East Grinstead: "One messuage or tenement one barne and certaine assart lands called leggs heath" containing 10 acres and rented at 1s. per annum; "one tenement called Brockets als Tyces al Tavel and one barne and 3 crofts of assart lands at Plawhatch" of four acres at 9s; "one cottage and one pcell of land called the Clay Pitts" of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres at 1s.; "ij peeces of assart lands called Clay-pitts" of six acres at 2s.; and "two pcells of assart lands called Twyfords" of seven acres at 1s. 6d. At this same date there was held for this Manor, according to the returns of the Commissioners appointed to report on the royal lands, "a Court Barron or three weekes court, still continued from three weeks to three" for trial of actions under 20s. The jurisdiction of this Court extended over the Hundred, the Town and the Borough of East Grinstead. The tenants of the Manor had to perform their service at these Courts. There was also the Aves Court held annually on the next Tuesday after All Saints Day and the Woodmote Court held three weeks later. At the former the tenants had to pay their fees for turning out cattle on the Forest "yearely for a bullocke half a penny, and for a horse a penny," and at the latter Court make presentments of abuses of customs, of encroachments, &c. The custom of this Manor was for land to descend to the eldest son or daughter, who had to pay one year's quit rent for admission upon decease. A heriot of best beast was payable on death or surrender. Mr. Barchard is the present Lord of this Manor.

### MINOR MANORS.

Wallhill was probably at one period part of the Manor of Imberhorne, but in time became distinct and may be the Warlege referred to in Domesday Book.

John Culpeper died at Wakehurst on March 25th, 1565, leaving as his son and heir Thomas Culpeper. He died seized of divers lands and tenements in East Grinstead and elsewhere, held of Sir Thomas Browne by fealty only as of his Manor of Walstead. When an inquisition was taken after the death of Thomas Culpeper in 1571 this was confirmed.

From a petition presented to Parliament on February 23rd, 1802, by certain inhabitants of East Grinstead it appeared that there was "a certain common and waste land called Ashurst Wood lying and being within the Manor of Ashurst, or Grinsted Wild, or Walhill Manor," and the petitioners set forth that it might be much improved if enclosed, divided into allotments and distributed among them. In 1835 the Manor of Ashurst, or Grinsted Wild, or Walhill, belonged to the Earl of Burlington, from whose family it was purchased by the late Mr. William Pearless, whose two sons and Trustees are the present Lords of this Manor.

The Manor of Standen was subordinate to the Manor of Imberhorne, but Horsfield states that it paid quit rents, and courts were held for it down to 1835.

The Manor of Brockhurst is possibly the Biochest of Domesday Book. Its records are very scanty, but we do know that in 1574 it belonged to Philip, Earl of Surrey, and that it then chiefly consisted of freehold tenements held of the Lord by fealty and certain rents and heriots. The custom of Borough-English prevailed in regard to it. By an inquisition taken at Horsham in 1606-7 it appears to have been subordinate to the Manor of Sheffield-Grensted, of which it was held by John Leedes by fealty and 4d. rent yearly.

The Manors of Hazelden (granted by Henry VIII. to John Baker, his Attorney-General), Bysshecourt and Maresfield (which included the Priory, Forest Row and 100 acres of land) were also partly in the parish of East Grinstead.

There was also a Manor of Mayes within the parish, and in 1624 it belonged to Richard, Earl of Dorset. John Gowland, apothecary to the King, owned it 150



years later, and he sold it to Mr. Gibbs Crawford, who exercised Lordship over it from 1786 to 1790.

The Bower was a reputed Manor in East Grinstead and Hartfield, and Goddenwick another in East Grinstead, owned in 1788 by Mr. Gibbs Crawford. There is still a Bower Farm at Hammerwood. Goddenwick Manor possibly extended to Lindfield and was connected with Mr. Gibbs Crawford's estate there.

Pixton's was also a reputed Manor, and in 1507 we find John Payne, senior, of Forest Row, leaving to his widow for life the Manor called Pyckestonns.

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# THE PAROCHIAL CHARITIES.

## CHAPTER VIII.

THE following particulars of the charities of East Grinstead have been gathered from the manuscript and printed records in the Charity Commissioners' office and from other sources:—

### THE ALMSHOUSES.

There are eight very small old cottages, situate well back from the London Road, opposite the White Lion Hotel, which have always been known as "The Alms-houses." It is supposed that they were left to the town by Richard Lewkenor, of Brambletye, or his wife, Lady Katherine. The only direct evidence that they so left such a property is furnished by an inscription on a brass now fixed to the east wall of East Grinstead Church. This has often been quoted in whole or in part, but rarely correctly given. It reads:—

Here under this marbille stone lyeth Dame Kateryne Grey, daughter of Thomas, some tyme Lorde S (\*) lis, wyff to Sir Thomas Grey, Knyght and bauneret, and after wyff unto the Honorable Esquier Richard Lewkener the elder of Brambilletey and oon of the ladys to Quene Elizabeth, wyff of blessed memory Edward iiij<sup>the</sup> and afterwarde to Quene Elizabeth, wyff unto owre Soffereyne Lorde Kyng Harry the vij<sup>the</sup> the wiche passed owte of this transitory worlde the ix<sup>th</sup> day of June the yere of owre Lorde God m<sup>c</sup>ccccv.; and the same Dame Kateryne and Richard her husbonde have fownded, indued and inorned thys present Church of Estgrenested to the lawde and honor of God in dyvers ornamentis, and a almess howse of iij parsons on whose sowlis Ihu for thy bitter passion have on them thy mercyffulle compassyon. Amen.

This brass was rescued from the ruins of the church, inserted in a tablet of marble, and placed on the east wall by Thomas Wakeham, of the Hermitage, in 1798.

There is not the slightest record concerning the alms-houses to be found anywhere. In 1835 the Charity

\* The brass is here pierced and a few letters (possibly "ca") obliterated.

Commissioners made an investigation, and ascertained that they were occupied by labouring people, whose only right seemed to rest on permission given, as vacancies occurred, by Mr. George Bankin, Steward of the Manor of Brambletye, to whom all applications were made. This had for many years been the custom. The Lord of the Manor claimed no right in connection with the houses, and Mr. Bankin had granted to such persons as he thought deserving the privilege of living in the different tenements, without entertaining the slightest notion of any legal power vested in him to do so. In many cases the privilege had descended from parent to child. The repairs were always done by the occupants, and when Mr. Bankin died those then in residence retained possession and the property became "keyhold," the only evidence of ownership being the holding of the door-key. The houses have since been several times sold, but all early title deeds are missing. The general belief that they were the almshouses referred to in the inscription quoted above is strengthened by the fact that the founders lived at Brambletye, and that the Steward of that Manor long exercised the right of nominating the tenants.

The houses in Church Street, which face the churchyard, are described in some of the title deeds as "The Old Almshouses," and it is possible that they once constituted one of the local charities and were the houses referred to in the will dated December 12th, 1579, of John Payne, of the town of East Grinstead, which contained the following:—

Item I give unto James Duffeld, Stephen Ffrenche and George Harman churchwardens of Estegrensted and to their successors wardens there for ever to the only use of the most needy poor persons of Estegrensted all that tenement and orchard which I late leased to one John Hastings and which was formerly in the possession of one . . . widdow paying the services due to the lord thereof.

He died on January 19th, 1580, and in the report of an inquest held at East Grinstead on March 21st following all the words quoted above are scratched out, as though the testator had altered his mind, or the writer of the

inquest report had made an error, but the following appears as a codicil to the same will:—

He did bequeath and give by words nuncupative unto James Duffeilde, Stephen ffrench and George Harman churchwardens of East Greensteade and their successors wardens there for ever to the onlie use of the most neede poore persons of East Greensteade all that tenement or orcharde w<sup>th</sup> th'app'tances w<sup>h</sup> he late leased to one John Hastings and w<sup>ch</sup> was sometime possessed of one Baylies widow paying the services to the chiefe lorde thereof.

The above testator, John Payne, was son of George Payne, of East Grinstead, who died in 1538, grandson of John Payne, of Pixtons, in Forest Row, who died in 1507, and an ancestor of Robert Payne, who founded the free school in East Grinstead in 1708.

### HENRY SMITH'S CHARITY.

This ancient and very widespread charity has a deeply interesting history. Henry Smith, commonly known as "Dog Smith," was a citizen and alderman of London, and by a deed dated October 20th, 1620, he conveyed all his real estates in Sussex, Middlesex and London for charitable uses, subject to the Trustees paying him £500 a year for his own use. He at first retained power of revocation, but after a time withdrew this, and then, becoming dissatisfied, brought an action against his Trustees, and as a result, in a decree dated June 20th, 1626, they were ordered to let him have the use, for life, of his mansion in Silver Street, London, and all the profits arising therefrom. In a deed bearing date January 20th, 1626-7, he fully set forth his intentions as to the class of people he desired to benefit by his large gifts. His primary intention was to help the poor and infirm and he ordered that none of his money was to go "to or for the relief of any persons who should be given to excessive drinking, common swearers, pilferers, or otherwise notoriously scandalous, or to any persons that should have been incorrigible or disobedient to those whose servants they should have been or to any vagrant persons." He further directed that all recipients of his bounty must have resided five years in the parish before

receiving the relief and, if able, must have worked when work was offered them. He died on January 3rd, 1627-8, aged 79, and by his will, dated April 24th, 1627, he greatly augmented his previous gifts. The extent of the estate to be administered may be gathered from a Parliamentary report issued in August, 1828. At that date the Trustees of the charity held 4,047 acres of land, yielding a rental of £3,760. 4s. 10d. per annum; from a further unstated quantity the sum of £95 was realised; tithes brought in another £520. 8s. 4d. per annum; and the average profits of a manor were £186. 13s. 4d. In addition nine houses yielded £116. 7s. 6d. a year; fixed rent charges £215, and quit rents £56. 19s. 8d. There was a further sum of £6,185. 12s. 1d. invested in redeemable consols, £9,158. 15s. 4d. in 3 per cent. stock and £1,890. 14s. 7d. in consolidated stock, these three last items bringing in £508. 6s. 8d. a year. The Treasurer further had in hand a cash sum of £2,335. 17s. 10d.

On December 20th, 1641, a deed was executed setting apart the rents of a certain estate to be divided among 21 parishes, of which East Grinstead was one. It was ordered that the churchwardens and overseers of this parish—the Vicar, strange to say, is not named—should receive £15, or an equivalent portion, this sum being then 15-220ths of the whole income from this specific estate. The income received by East Grinstead has varied greatly. From 1813 to 1818 it ranged from £30. 0s. 11d. to £35. 11s. 6d.; in 1847 it was £40. 7s. 2d.; in 1878 it rose to nearly £60; and in 1904 it had dropped to £17. 15s. The estate in question is called Stoughton, and consists of a house and 315-a. 3-r. 9-p. of land in the parishes of Stoughton, Houghton, Errington and Busby, in Leicestershire. The first charge on the rent is one of £24. 2s. 8d., payable to Worth as interest on £804. 10s. 7d. borrowed from that parish for the redemption of the land tax on Stoughton.

Up to 1835 it had been the custom to spend all the money received by East Grinstead on gowns, costing 6s. 6d. each, and giving them at a public meeting to the poor women belonging to the parish, but not always

residing in it. The Charity Commissioners characterised this as a most undesirable method of dealing with the money and suggested that some more fitting appropriation of it should be devised. Accordingly a change was made, and general drapery goods have since been purchased and distributed.

### THE PAYNE ENDOWMENT.

This educational charity was founded in the year 1708 by Robert Payne, of Newick, a member of a very old East Grinstead family to which reference has already been made. In the chancel of East Grinstead Church is a tablet bearing the following quaint inscription:—

Sacred  
to the Memory of  
Those Worthy Persons and Loving Brothers  
ROBERT & HENRY PAYNE  
of Newick, in this County, Gent<sup>s</sup>  
the Sons of Edward Payne, late of this Parish, Esq.  
True Friends to Monarchy and Episcopacy  
Generous Promoters of Piety and Charity.  
The Elder in Particular  
Liberally endowed a Free School w<sup>th</sup> a farm call'd Serreys  
in Eastgrinsted for ever.  
Moreover they left behind them  
a Rare Example of Fraternal Affection  
for they lived together above 40 years  
without the least interruption and with constant agreement.  
As in Life united so in Death not divided  
for they soon followed each other the same year  
and near this Place are both interr'd  
amongst their Ancestors.  
Mr. Henry } departed this life { July 5<sup>th</sup> in y<sup>e</sup> 68<sup>th</sup> } of his age.  
Mr. Robert } { Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> in y<sup>e</sup> 75<sup>th</sup> }

An<sup>o</sup> Dom<sup>in</sup> 1708.

On the monument appear the arms of the Payne family, quartered with, it is presumed, those of Yerwood, to which family belonged Hanna, the wife of Edward Payne and mother of these two “loving brothers.”

Robert Payne's will was dated August 16th, 1708, the same year as he died, and it contained the following:—

Whereas I am minded and intend to found a Free Grammar School in East Grinstead aforesaid, to teach and instruct the youth of the said parish, and to endow the same with the farms and lands hereinafter

mentioned; And that my Trustees shall and may provide a pious and learned master, to teach in the school-house now built in the said parish, and adjoining to the said church of East Grinstead aforesaid, and to be from time to time nominated and appointed by my said Trustees hereafter named, and the Vicar of East Grinstead aforesaid for the time being; And for the better maintenance of such schoolmaster I doe hereby give and devise unto the aforesaid Richard Payne, Edward Payne, John Payne, son of the said Charles Payne, and to my cousin, Thomas Moore, and to John Staples, clerk, now Vicar of East Grinstead, and to their heirs and assignes for ever, all that my messuage or tenement, barns, buildings, land and hereditaments, with all the appurtenances, commonly called Serryes Farme, or by whatever other name or names called or known, situate, lying and being in the aforesaid parish of East Grinstead and now in the tenure or occupation of the said John Aynscomb or his assignes; To the intent and purpose and upon this trust and confidence that they the said Richard Payne, Edward Payne, John Payne, Thomas Moore and John Staples, and the survivors and survivor of them, and his heirs, shall yearly for ever pay the whole clear rents and profits of the said farme (after the taxes, reparations, and their necessary charges and disbursements deducted) to such person for the time being as shall be schoolmaster of the said school. And for the continuing of the said charity above mentioned for ever, I doe will and appoint, that when all my said Trustees but one or two, shall be dead, then the surviving Trustees or Trustee shall, by his or their deed of feoffment or other lawful conveyance, convey to six others of the most able and nearest relations of the said surviving Trustees (whereof the Vicar of East Grinstead for the time being, to be one of the said Feoffees) and to their heirs, All the said farme, lands, and premises in the occupation of the said John Aynscomb, or his assigns to the respective uses and trusts aforesaid, of which said new Trustees or Feoffees, after they shall all be dead but one or two, the survivors or survivor in like manner to convey to six others and their heirs; and soe to be conveyed by the survivor or two survivors, to six others and their heirs for ever, in like manner, for the preservation of the said charity for ever, according to the true intent of this my last will and testament. Provided always, in case at any time hereafter the Vicar of the said parish of East Grinstead, for the time being, or any of the inhabitants of the said parish of East Grinstead, shall hinder or molest the schoolmaster of the said intended Free School to teach in the said school-house adjoining the church of East Grinstead, then the said devise of the said farme, lands and premises called Serryes, to the said Richard Payne, Edward Payne, John Payne, Thomas Moore, and John Staples, and their heirs, shall be void; and in such case I give and devise my said farme, lands, and premises, called Serryes, to my own right heirs for ever. And my further will and meaning concerning the said Free School is, that my said Trustees and their successors shall order and direct how many scholars the schoolmaster shall teach from time to time, at their discretions. And that my Trustees and their successors shall have power to let leases, for one and twenty years, of the said farme and land called Serryes, from time to time, at the full improved rent thereof.

Thomas Moore, one of the Trustees, was son of the testator's kinsman, Eliot Moore, of Wivelsfield, an old family, whose monuments appear in their Parish Church.

For a long time the school was accommodated in the vestry of the Parish Church, and the number of scholars varied according to the rent received from the farm. In the year 1772 the school was closed for a time, as the Trustees could not procure a master able to teach Latin in addition to other subjects. Nearly three years later the following advertisement appeared in the *Lewes Journal*:—

Twenty pounds a year to teach ten boys. Apply to Elfred Staples, Esquire, East Grinstead.

Mr. Palmer, of Eastbourne, applied for and obtained the situation, and with the accumulated rent an additional free scholar was added, making the number eleven. Then came the destruction of the church, and consequently the school room, in 1785. After its re-building the vestry was reported to be ready for re-occupation by the school on September 24th, 1808. This vestry is no less than 30 feet high, it having been intended, when the church was built, to divide the space into two rooms, one to be used as a vestry, the other as a school room, but the lack of funds led to the combination of the two. In 1816 the school was associated with the National Society and removed to Sackville College, where it flourished until 1839, when, owing to no room being available, and to a quarrel which arose between the master and trustees, it was again suspended for about eight years. The average number of scholars was then 80, of whom 25 were admitted free at the expense of the Trust. The Charity Commissioners held an inquiry into the matter, and in the year 1842 the Court of Chancery approved of a scheme for the future conduct of the school, which led to bitter disputes between Churchmen and Nonconformists and the issue of strongly worded pamphlets by the Rev. Christopher Nevill, vicar of East Grinstead, on the one side, and the Rev. James Blomfield, pastor of the Countess of Huntingdon's Church, on the other. This scheme set forth that in lieu of the Greek and Latin languages there should



be taught "the English Language, Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, the Catechism of the Church of England and the Holy Scriptures." The Trustees and master had all to be members of the Church of England, every child admitted had to produce a certificate of baptism, and each Sunday, Christmas Day and Good Friday the scholars had to attend, with their master, at the morning and afternoon services held in the Parish Church. Subject to the approval of the Trustees the master was allowed to take other than the free scholars. The final clause in the scheme was:—

That the children of persons, dissenters from the Established Church, shall be permitted to attend at the said school, and shall be capable of being elected scholars of the said charity, such children in all respects observing the directions and regulations of the said Trustees of the charity.

The specific rules drafted by the Trustees under this scheme incorporated Psalmody among the subjects taught and increased the number of free children to 50, allowing others to come in on payment of one shilling a week each for one class of scholars and fourpence a week for another. The following rules proved particularly objectionable to many:—

Every child taught in the school is to be brought to the parish church by the master, whenever that church is opened for the celebration of divine worship.

The school on Sunday is open at nine in the morning, and two in the afternoon, into which are received all children without any payment, who are unable to attend the school during the week.

The following rule, though quaint, is not of a very obnoxious character:—

The master is particularly enjoined, as well by precept as example, to see that all the children entrusted to his care, both in school and out of school, behave themselves lowly and reverently to all their betters.

While the school remained closed some evening classes were formed at Zion Chapel and over 40 children attended.

The Free Grammar School was re-opened on November 8th, 1847, when it found for a time a habitation at

Cromwell House, in the High Street, and later on in what now forms part of Mr. J. B. Allwork's private house. Then at a cost of £5 a year Mr. C. R. Duplex, who was at that time the master, hired a stable-like tenement of two rooms, which stood in the corner of the Hipps field, facing the cottages which now stand in Old Road. Here the school was carried on until he retired on a pension of £40 a year about the year 1880.

In 1887 the Charity Commissioners formulated an entirely new scheme and founded the Payne Endowment as it exists to-day. It is administered by a body of Governors, of whom the Vicar for the time being is the only *ex-officio* member. One other is appointed by the Urban Council, one by the Magistrates for the Petty Sessional Division of East Grinstead and two by the Educational Authority. There are also three co-opted Governors, elected by the remainder, but the first co-opted Governors were nominated in the scheme and numbered five. They were Lord Colchester, the late Earl De la Warr, the late Mr. K. R. Murchison, of Brockhurst, the late Mr. H. R. Freshfield, of Kidbrook, and the Rev. A. J. Swainson, Vicar of Forest Row. All religious differences were stifled by the following clauses :—

Religious opinions or attendance or non-attendance at any particular form of religious worship shall not in any way affect the qualification of any person for being a Governor under this scheme.

No boy or girl shall, by reason of any exemption from attending prayer or religious worship, or from any lesson or series of lessons on a religious subject, be deprived of any advantage or emolument out of the endowment of the Foundation to which he or she would otherwise have been entitled.

The scheme authorises the spending of the income on evening lectures on “scientific, technical or literary subjects,” and on the founding of exhibitions each of a yearly value of not less than £10 nor more than £30. The conditions attaching to them are :—

These Exhibitions shall be awarded on the result of such examination as the Governors think fit as nearly as may be equally to boys and girls, not less than 12 nor more than 14 years of age, who are of the parish of East Grinstead.

These Exhibitions shall each be tenable for not more than three years at any place of education, higher than elementary, approved by the Governors.

Every Exhibition shall be given as the reward of merit, and shall, except as herein provided, be freely and openly competed for and shall be tenable only for the purposes of education.

If the holder of an Exhibition shall, in the judgment of the Governors, be guilty of serious misconduct or idleness, or fail to maintain a reasonable standard of proficiency, or wilfully cease to pursue his or her education, the Governors may deprive him or her of the Exhibition.

About 20 years ago Serryes or Surries Farm, situate at Ashurst Wood, was sold to the late Mr. Oswald Smith, of Hammerwood, and has ever since formed part of the Hammerwood estate, and the capital is now represented by the sum of £3,937. 12s. 11d. invested in India 3 per cent. stock and producing an annual income of £118. 2s. 4d. The present Governors are: The Rev. D. Y. Blakiston, *ex-officio*; Mr. Joseph Rice, nominated by the Urban Council; Mr. W. V. K. Stenning, by the Justices; Mr. W. Young and Mr. S. Jenks, by the Education Authority; and the Rev. A. J. Swainson, Mr. C. H. Everard and Dr. H. S. McCalmont Hill, co-optative governors. Mr. E. P. Whitley Hughes is the Clerk to the Endowment Trust.

### THOMAS HALL'S CHARITY.

Thomas Hall, by his will, dated August 12th, 1817, left "£20 to be placed out on sound security, the interest to be given for ever in bread to 20 poor women, a sixpenny loaf to each to be given twice a year on January 6th and July 6th." He, however, left no instructions as to whom the money was to be paid to or who were to be Trustees. Messrs. Russell Hall and William Hall, his brothers, were the executors, and for three years after his death they distributed 10s. worth of bread on each of the dates named. They repeatedly applied to the Vicar and parish officers to receive the money and invest it, but they declined to accept it, so the money remained in the executors' hands, was never invested and in time the charity entirely lapsed.

## HAIRE'S CHARITY.

Mary Ann Haire, the wife of Thomas Haire, a doctor, of Lewes, died on May 3rd, 1854, and by her will, dated December 13th, 1845, she directed £400 to be invested on trust, the income to be expended annually at Christmas on the purchase of bread for distribution among such poor as were not in receipt of alms or parochial relief. Three-eighths of the income were to go to All Saints Parish, Lewes, and one-eighth each to East Grinstead, Lindfield, Buxted, Maresfield and Ardingly. Her estate, however, did not realise sufficient to pay the bequest in full, and in 1879 the Rev. William John Langdale, of Ormonde Terrace, Regent's Park, hearing that the various beneficiaries under the will were bitterly disappointed at the smallness of the legacies as realised, expressed a desire to make a free gift out of his own money to the various charitable institutions which had suffered in consequence of the deficient realisation. Accordingly he paid £968. 17s. 1d., and by order of the Court of Chancery a sum of £142. 0s. 10d. was allotted out of it in augmentation of the bread charity. The Charity Commissioners prepared a scheme dividing up the augmented capital among the parishes interested, and they appointed the Vicar and Churchwardens trustees for East Grinstead, but invested the money in their own names. The share of this parish is represented by £28. 2s. 6d. consols, yielding just over 15s. a year, and this is paid annually to a special account in the name of the Rev. D. Y. Blakiston at Barclay & Co.'s Bank. The income is so small that it is allowed to accumulate, and in years of severe distress is used for the purchase of bread or the augmentation of other charities.

## JOHN SMITH'S TRUST.

This Trust has a very peculiar history and might well be called "The Smith and Mills Charity," for the name of the late Mr. John Mills, of The Rocks, Ashurst Wood, as much merits association with it as that of Mr. John Smith, who was an auctioneer in East Grinstead,

and died on June 10th, 1862. By his will, he directed his Trustees to purchase so much consolidated three per cent. annuities, or to invest a sufficient sum on real securities, as would enable them to provide an annuity of £300 a year for his wife and £80 a year for his mother during their respective lives, and he gave the residue of his real and personal estate to his wife and to John Mills, sen., in equal shares. There was no mention of any charity in the will, but shortly after his death a memorandum was found amongst his papers to the effect that he wished that all the residue of his property and the funds from which the annuities might arise should, subject to such annuities, be applied to the benefit of the poor inhabitants of East Grinstead and adjoining parishes. His widow married the late Mr. William Burgess, of Jacks Bridge, Lingfield, in January, 1864, but previous to this marriage her interest under her first husband's will was assigned to the Trustees of her first marriage settlement. Mr. John Mills, sen., was most anxious to see the discovered wishes of his old friend, Mr. John Smith, as to the devotion of the money to charities, fully carried out, and he strongly impressed on his wife and two sons the fact that though the legacy was left to him, he or they had no real right to it. He died on April 8th, 1865, before he could carry his desires into effect, leaving a will dated February 5th, 1853. His property was left to his widow and sons, and it naturally included his share of John Smith's estate. The opinion of the Court of Chancery was sought on the subject, and an order was made on June 1st, 1867, by which it was declared that the property of John Smith was given to his widow and to John Mills, not on trust, but for their individual benefit entirely. Despite this decision Mrs. Mills, the widow, was most anxious to carry out the desires of both the original testators, Mr. Smith and her husband, and in this wish she was joined by her sons, Messrs. John and Henry Mills. A deed was drawn up setting forth that they were desirous of assigning their individual moiety, and in order to carry out this desire the money was assigned to John Mills and two others.

The indenture was dated March 6th, 1871, and was made between Mr. W. A. Head, Mrs. Mills, Mr. John Mills, Mr. Henry Mills and others. In the agreement come to it was arranged that three equal twenty-seconds of the whole sum so assigned should be set apart

to pay the interest, dividends and income thereof to the vicar, churchwardens and overseers of the poor for the time being of the parish of East Grinstead to be applied by them in such manner as they or the majority of them for the time being should think fit for the purchase of coals for or otherwise for the benefit of the poor inhabitants of the said parish or any of them not being inhabitants of the ecclesiastical district of Forest Row.

At this time the Trustees had £6,550 out on eight mortgages and had also £1,107. 5s. 10d. cash in hand. Half of this, being Mr. John Mills' share, came to the Trust, the other half, on Mrs. Burgess's death, being paid over to the Trustees of her marriage settlement and it has never come into the charitable trust. The present Trustees or Governors are Mr. W. V. K. Stenning (chairman), Mr. J. McAndrew, Mr. G. F. Walker and Mr. A. Bridgland. Mr. E. A. Head is Clerk to the Governors. The capital sum quite voluntarily handed over by Mrs. Mills and her two sons, in accordance with the wishes of both Mr. Smith and Mr. Mills, is now represented by £400 on mortgage of two freehold houses in St. James' Road, East Grinstead, of which the Governors are at present in receipt of the rents; £1,130 on mortgage of freehold houses at Richmond; £998. 3s. 11d. in India 3 per cent. and £836. 10s. 11d. in  $2\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. consols: a total of £3,364. 14s. 10d. The income is about £115 a year and it has to be divided into 22 parts, of which Cowden, West Hoathly, Withyham and Hartfield take two each; Forest Row and East Grinstead, three each; and Lingfield and Worth, four each. Each share being at present worth about £5, East Grinstead consequently gets some £15 a year from this charity.

### THE HOPER TRUST.

Mrs. H. L. Hoper, whose family owned and lived at Thorn Hill, left the sum of £1,077. 9s. 3d. stock for the benefit of the Forest Row portion of the parish. A

declaration of trust, dated 1869, set forth that half the income, then £29. 12s. 4d. per annum, was to be devoted to the benefit of the church schools in Ashurst Wood and Forest Row, and the other half distributed among the poor. There being no church school at Ashurst Wood, Forest Row gets the full half. The other half is equally divided between the Coal and Soup Fund and the Clothing Club. The conversion of consols by Mr. Goschen slightly reduced the income from this Trust and it is now about £25 per annum.

### REV. B. SLIGHT'S TRUST.

The Rev. Benjamin Slight, for many years a Nonconformist minister at Tunbridge Wells and during the closing period of his life resident in East Grinstead and then at Nenthorn, Ashurst Wood, died on August 17th, 1889, and by his will, dated March 22nd, 1883, left to the Trustees of the Congregational Church at Ashurst Wood the sum of £500, less legacy duty, on trust, "that they and the other Trustees from time to time of the said church do invest the same and apply the income towards the support of the minister or the current expenses of the said church as to its Trustees shall from time to time seem expedient." The capital sum is now represented by £471. 16s. 5d. invested in India 3 per cent. stock in the names of the Charity Commissioners and yielding £14. 3s. a year. There are no expenses of management and the whole income is used to pay the rent of the minister's house or expenses in connection with the chapel. The present Trustees of the chapel are Messrs. Wm. Brackett and F. Bell, of Tunbridge Wells; J. W. Hawkins, of Upper Tooting; James Waters, of Forest Row; Edward Young, of East Grinstead; and B. Grove, G. Mitchell and S. Jenks, of Ashurst Wood. The last named acts as Treasurer and Correspondent.

### JOHN SOUTHEY SCHOLARSHIPS.

Mr. John Southey, an old and esteemed tradesman of East Grinstead, died on March 3rd, 1899, and by his

will, which was proved on May 1st following, he instructed his executors—

To set aside the sum of Four thousand two hundred pounds and invest the same in Two pounds ten shillings per centum Bank Annuities and stand possessed of the same and use the income resulting therefrom for the purpose of endowing three Scholarships for two Boys and one Girl the Children of Tradesmen or of any person below the class of a Tradesman and whose parents or parent having the custody of such Children or Child shall have been resident in the Parish of East Grinstead for not less than five years, such Fund when set aside to be called "The John Southey Endowment Fund" and such Scholarships to be called "The John Southey Scholarships," and I direct that my Trustees or such persons as they shall think fit to appoint to administer this Trust and their successors for the time being shall fix the time for which any Scholarship shall be held by any one Boy or Girl and be the sole judges as to whether any and what Boy or Girl shall be entitled to compete for and hold any Scholarship and to make such arrangements for the examination of the Candidates for such Scholarships as they shall think advisable.

The two Trustees appointed were Mr. Bromley Hall, of Ivy Mill, Godstone, and Mr. Evelyn A. Head, of East Grinstead. On June 8th, 1901, they applied to the Charity Commissioners for sanction to a scheme for administering the Trust and this sanction was given on August 28th of the same year. This sets forth that the Trustees of the Charity shall consist of the Governors, for the time being, of the Payne Endowment and two co-optative Trustees—Messrs. Hall and Head—who are to hold office for life. On the death of either of these the remaining Trustees can appoint any person residing or carrying on business in or near East Grinstead to act for a period of five years.

Mr. Southey's estate did not realise the amount he had anticipated, and instead of £4,200 being available for investment the total received by the Trustees was £1,725, now represented by £1,671. 7s. 6d. in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. annuities, yielding £41. 15s. 8d. per annum. Mr. E. P. Whitley Hughes acts as Clerk to these Governors.

### FELBRIDGE SCHOOL.

The benefits of this charity extended to East Grinstead. It was founded during his lifetime by Mr. James Evelyn, of Felbridge. He was born on July



17th, 1718, and died July 11th, 1793, being buried at Godstone. By an indenture dated November 4th, 1783, made between himself and the Rev. Geo. Bethune, of Rowfant, it was set forth that Mr. Evelyn, having recently built himself a mansion on Felbridge Heath, had caused a piece of land adjoining, with a house thereon, to be fenced in for the use and support of the master of the school, and he proposed to convey, for the schoolmaster's benefit, the said house and parcel of land and £21 a year, clear of all deductions. Accordingly, for the nominal sum of 10s., he sold the house, land and rent charge to Mr. Bethune and his heirs for ever. The £21 was charged on Stocklands House and 12 pieces of land, 48 acres in all, situate in the parish of Bletchingley and then let at £35 per annum. On the death of James Evelyn, Jane, his wife (who was a daughter of Sir Richard Cust, of Belton, Lincolnshire), and their direct heirs, the appointment of the schoolmaster was to devolve upon the Rectors or Vicars of Godstone, Horne, Worth and East Grinstead. The master was to teach the children reading, writing, arithmetic and to repeat the catechism. Eight boys and four girls were to be admitted free of charge and the master was to find them in quills and ink, but to teach them to make their own pens. The boys were to be between the ages of six and 10, the girls between six and 13, all were to reside within  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of the school, and they were to be drawn from the parishes named in the following proportions:—Godstone, three boys and one girl; Horne and Worth, each two boys and one girl; East Grinstead, one boy and one girl. The right of nomination was to be in the hands of the respective Vicars of the parishes after the deaths of James Evelyn, his wife and direct heirs. This arrangement continued in force until 1864, when a scheme was approved making the owner of the mansion at Felbridge a trustee of the charity, authorising him to receive the income, giving him the power of appointing the schoolmaster, the right to decide as to the best matters to be taught in the school, and the power to exclude any children for

misconduct. Such drastic powers in one man's hands did not long remain, for in 1866 another scheme was sanctioned, giving him the power of appointing the schoolmaster and mistress, subject only to the consent of the other trustees, who then were Mrs. Gatty, Mr. C. H. Gatty, Rev. G. W. Banks (Rector of Worth), Rev. G. Bird (incumbent of Blindley Heath) and the Vicars of East Grinstead and Godstone. Despite this arrangement the management of the whole affair drifted exclusively into the hands of Mr. Gatty and the rent charge on the Bletchingley property was not collected for many years. When Mr. C. H. Gatty died inquiries were instituted and as a result Mrs. Pelly, the owner of Stocklands, without admitting liability, and, as an act of grace, paid over, to the school funds, the sum of £400 in full discharge of any claim which might be made on her. As there is now universal free admission to elementary schools the charity has practically lapsed.

It may not be out of place here to add that James Evelyn, who founded this charity, erected the obelisk which still stands in Felbridge Park, to the memory of his father and mother, Edward and Julia Evelyn. The inscription on it, in hardly classical Latin, reads:—

JACOBUS EVELYN, FILIUS EDWARDI EVELYN

Et Julie uxoris ejus

(O Benignissimi Parentes)

Hanc Columnam

Hac Terra (Natale Solum)

Ponendam

Pientissime Gratissimeque

Curavit

A.D. MDCCCLXXXVI

Johannes Soane

Architectus.

Much of the base of the column is further occupied by the whole of Addison's exquisite Hymn of Gratitude, commencing "When all Thy mercies, O my God."

Some lengthy references to members of this remarkable family will be found in the chapter which deals with the Parliamentary history of East Grinstead. They were the possessors of the Felbridge estate for nearly 300 years,

it being purchased by the late Mr. George Gatty, in 1856, from Selina, Viscountess Milton, mother of the present Earl of Liverpool, and the second of the three daughters and co-heirs of the third Earl of Liverpool and third Baron Hawkesbury. The estate fell to her share on the death of her father on October 3rd, 1851. John Evelyn, author of "*Sylva*," in his diary, makes frequent mention of visits paid by him to his relative, Sir John Evelyn, at Godstone.

### FELBRIDGE BEEF AND FAGGOT CHARITY.

More than half the inhabitants of East Grinstead have the right to participate in the benefits of this interesting charity. It was founded, like the Felbridge School Charity, by Mr. James Evelyn, who, by a codicil to his will, dated July 3rd, 1793, recommended that four stone of beef should be provided and made into broth and distributed, as during his lifetime, from the first Thursday in November to the last Thursday in April, and that a round of beef, weighing not less than 4-stone 2-lbs., should be provided every Sunday in the year, as during his lifetime, and that the schoolmistress should be allowed at the rate of one penny per head for beer and one penny per head for bread for those who partook of it. The number of guests was not to be less than 12 nor more than 14. Two hundred faggots were to be provided yearly for the schoolmistress to dress the meat with, and she was to be allowed sixpence a week for preparing the broth. On April 19th, 1807, the Court of Chancery made an order setting aside the sum of £3,500 from a total capital of £11,327. 8s. 9d. invested in 3 per cent. annuities, to meet all future expenses of this charity. On July 15th, 1821, the Hon. Chas. Cecil Cope Jenkinson, who had married James Evelyn's granddaughter, was M.P. for East Grinstead, and afterwards became Earl of Liverpool, together with Samuel Forster, of Lincoln's Inn, were made trustees of the charity, and the costs of this order were paid out of the capital sum belonging to it, the amount invested being thereby reduced to £3,441. 10s. 6d. It was invested in the names of the

Official Trustees of Charitable Funds for the County of Surrey. On Jan. 29th, 1864, a scheme was authorised by the Charity Commissioners making the owner of the mansion at Felbridge manager of the charity and receiver of all the income. This scheme further confirmed the rules as to the distributing of broth on Thursdays in the winter and the provision of Sunday dinners at the school. The recipients were to be residents in the district of Felbridge or within  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of the school house, "and shall be selected and excluded at the discretion of the Manager." The recipients were not to be less than 12 in number, and the Manager was given power to increase them as funds allowed. An amended scheme was approved on December 11th, 1866. The Trustees named were those already given as acting for the School Charity. The mode of distribution was altered. The Manager was to provide victuals and coals, the victuals to consist of beef or other good meat, with or without vegetables, to be distributed each Saturday afternoon or evening, the victuals not to be cooked, but the Schoolmaster to receive 6d. per week for receiving and distributing them. Coals were to be provided to warm the school house at a cost of 30s. a year. As with the School Charity, so with this, its management in time drifted entirely into the hands of Mr. Gatty, who, though supposed to annually make a return of the income and expenditure to the Charity Commissioners, only did so on three occasions, and even then did not trouble to balance his accounts. From the returns made it appears that the annual income was £94. 12s. 8d., and Mr. Gatty regularly spent a small portion of this on the school insurance, on coal for warming the building and on cleaning the church, the value of the meat annually distributed being just under £90. The weekly distribution still takes place, but a new scheme is in course of preparation whereby a fresh set of Trustees, of whom Mr. W. V. K. Stenning represents East Grinstead, will no doubt be given a wider discretion in the application of the income.

# THE IRON INDUSTRY,

WITH SOME NOTES FROM A CARRIER'S JOURNAL OF 1761  
TO 1769.

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## CHAPTER IX.

To the prosperous days of the famous Sussex ironworks several of the local stone-built houses owe their origin. Gravetye, Gulledge and Rowfant are examples of mansions built by the old ironmasters of the neighbourhood, who employed a vast number of hands and amassed considerable fortunes. Among the places in and around East Grinstead where furnaces existed were Tickeridge, Cansiron, Millplace, Hammerwood, Furnace Farm (Cowden), Furnace Pond (Felbridge), Wire Mill, The Warren (Crawley Down), Gravetye (where the mansion was built by Richard Infield, who married one of the Culpepers, and died March 11th, 1624), Parrock (Hartfield) and Rowfant. The destruction of timber to feed the furnaces, coal being too costly and difficult to obtain in large quantities, was necessarily very great, and as early as the reign of Henry VIII. (1543) it was enacted "that no wood shall be converted into pasture; that in cutting coppice woods at 24 years' growth or under there shall be left standing and unfelled for every acre twelve standils or storers of oak, or in default of so many, then of elm, ash, asp or beech; and that if the coppice be under 14 years' growth it shall be enclosed from cattle for six years." Many subsequent Acts were passed to the same effect.

On February 15th, 1574, Ralph Hogg complained of the infringement of the patent granted him by the Queen as to the exportation of ordnance, and a list was prepared of the owners of ironworks in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. It included the following:—

Mr. Mighell, 1 furnace in Hoadlee (West Hoathly).

Mr. Reynoldes, 1 furnace in Mylplace (Millplace).

Mr. Payne and Duffild, 1 fordg, 1 furnace in Grynsted.

This Mr. Payne was John Payne, a burgess of the town at that time, who, in his will dated December 12th, 1579, gave to his cousin, Roger Hayte, his tenement and "Smythes fforge now in the occupaçon of Joseph Duffield and John Larke scytuat in East Greensted." From the fact of its being styled "le fforge in Burge de Est Greensted" in an inquisition held in 1580 on the death of its owner, John Payne, it would seem to have been the only forge within the limits of the borough, which were by no means coterminous with the parish, as already explained.

The Lord of Buckherst, 1 fordge, 1 furnace in Parrock, in the hands of George Bullen.

The Quene's Ma<sup>tie</sup>, 1 fordge, 1 furnace in Ashdowne, in the hands of Henry Bowyer.

Ashdown Forest was at this time held by the Crown, and the forge referred to was at Newbridge.

Robert Whitfelde, 1 fordge in Rowfants.

This was an ancestor of the Whitfelds, the well-known Sussex bankers.

Henry Boyer, 1 fordge in Tynsley (Worth).

The following were ordered to appear before the Council:—

John Blacket, furnace at Hodley (West Hoathly).

Robert Reynold, a forge at Brambletyne (Brambletye).

From the following bonds were taken, under a penalty of £2,000, not to found or sell ordnance without license from the Queen:—

Robert Reynolds, of East Grinstead.

John Thorpe, of East Grinstead.

John Duffold, of East Grinstead.

Robert Whitfylde, of Worth.

George Bulleyn, of Hartefeild.

In defiance of these measures, however, the surreptitious exportation of Sussex cannon went on. In 1587, the Earl of Warwick, as Master of the Ordnance, despatched "a gentleman of his, one Mr. Blincoe," into Sussex, to summon all the gunfounders of the county up to London to understand his pleasure respecting their

further continuance of the manufacture. "Henry Nevel, and the rest of that occupation," obeyed the summons, and the matter was referred to the arrangement of Mr. Hockenal, the Deputy Master of the Ordnance, and Mr. Blincoe. The result was that not more than a certain quantity of cannon was to be cast annually for the necessary provision of our own navigation, a certain proportion being allowed to each founder. It was also stipulated that no ordnance should be sold except in the city, and not even there but to such merchants "as my lord or his deputy should name." These instructions seem to have been quickly disregarded, for two years later Thomas, Lord Buckhurst, Queen Elizabeth's Lord High Treasurer, wrote a letter complaining of the infringement of the regulations by the ironmasters:—

Their Lordshypps doe see the little regard the owners of furnaces and the makers of these peeeces have of their bondes, and how y<sup>e</sup> importeth the state that the enemy of Her Majesty should not be furnished oute of the lande with ordnance to annoy us.

The Lord Treasurer goes on to direct the Magistrates to enforce the provisions made by the Earl of Warwick. Another letter, from the same officer to the local Justices, dated October 6th, 1590, directs them as to "straighter restraint of making shott and ordnance," and to take bonds of £1,000 each of every furnace owner and farmer; and also to forward their bonds, and a list of their names, to him with all convenient speed.

According to a return made about 90 years later the ironworks at Millplace and Rowfant had been discontinued before 1664, and partly ruined, but the former were re-stocked and started again when the Civil War broke out, and guns or shot were made there for the supply of the King's stores. Millplace was owned in 1711 by John Conyers, M.P. for East Grinstead.

In 1740 there were only 10 furnaces in all Sussex, turning out 1,400 tons of iron in the year, but as late as 1769 local ironworks were in a very flourishing state. Those at Gravetye; at the Warren, which was near the borders of Sussex and Surrey, in the Crawley Down district; and at Millplace, situated about midway between

Stone Farm and Tickeridge, in East Grinstead, were all doing a considerable trade in the casting of ordnance, as is shown by the journal kept by Robert Knight, who had a very prosperous carrier's business in East Grinstead at that time. In the year 1761 Gravetye furnace was carried on by Messrs. Clutton & Co., and in August, 1762, the business was apparently sold to Messrs. Eade and Wilton. From April 23rd, 1761, to the end of the year 1762, from this one furnace alone, Robert Knight carried to London or Woolwich, principally to the latter place, over 225 guns, of which 27 were of unstated calibre, 20 were three-pounders, 29 four-pounders, four six-pounders, 66 nine-pounders, 35 twelve-pounders, 33 eighteen-pounders, and 18 thirty-two-pounders. From the very careful entries which Robert Knight made in his account book we are able to gather the approximate weights of some of these guns. A four-pounder weighed about half a ton, a nine-pounder 25 cwt., a twelve-pounder 36 cwt., and a thirty-two-pounder 56 cwt.

The Warren furnace was then being carried on by Messrs. Masters & Raby, and later on by Messrs. Raby and Rogers, and was also doing a very considerable trade with the Government. Its owners supplied numerous guns of various weights and calibre to Woolwich and also cast a large quantity of shot and shell. On three days in December, 1768, Knight carted to London 187 pieces of 10 and 13-inch shells, and brought back two tons of pig iron to the Warren and a plate of iron and a mould to Gravetye. This would seem to indicate that Messrs. Raby & Rogers had more casting orders on hand than they could produce local iron for. Occasionally the waggons came back loaded with coal or steel. Through January the work of carting shells and guns to London continued, 165 shells or 32-lbs. shot being taken in the first eight days of the year 1769. By this time the Gravetye and Warren furnaces were apparently under the same management, for Knight makes very frequent entries in his ledger of ordnance carted between the two, the Warren supplying Gravetye with iron and Gravetye sending to the Warren guns



“with the heads on” or “with the heads off,” nearly 100 pieces, ranging from “half-pounders” to nine-pounders, being thus specified. The Wakehurst Estate sent in a lot of timber for use at Gravetye, and coal was brought up in considerable quantities from Lewes, being water-borne thus far, the quantity averaging about 12 loads a month. One of Mr. Raby’s places is described as Woodcock Forge. This was the one known to be in use at Wire Mill, or Weir Mill, as it used to be called, adjoining the well-known pond at the foot of Woodcock Hill.

In 1763 Millplace furnace was in the hands of Messrs. Ralph Clutton & Durrant, and guns of a much finer make were apparently manufactured there. During February of the year named they consigned to Seamans Wharf, London, about 150 swivel guns, weighing only about one cwt. each. They also cast a number of twelve-pounders, as eight of these were sent to Woolwich in May, 1763. That this business was a considerable one is shown by a written statement in the ledger setting forth that during the year ending in August, 1762, Mr. Clutton paid to Knight the sum of £293. 12s. 10½d. on account of his cartage bill and there was then a balance due of £40. 5s. 4½d.

These furnaces must have ceased operation very shortly afterwards, for in 1788 there were only two charcoal fuel furnaces in the whole county of Sussex, and in 1796 only one, the last to cease working being that at Ashburnham, near Battle, in 1823.

Mr. Robert Knight’s journal contains much other interesting matter, in addition to the numerous entries in reference to the cartage of guns and shells. The blacksmiths who shared his work were Master Burr and William Wren, the latter then holding the forge at Felbridge, which for a century or more remained in the same family. The amount of timber and bark carted to London was enormous. In one day, July 18th, 1764, he took from Hasleden to “Mr. Coleman’s, the tanner, in Long Lane, London,” 25 bags of bark, each weighing over three cwt. Messrs. Clifford & Gardner then carried

on business as timber merchants here and their bill was a very heavy one. Mr. Whatley and later on Mr. Jourdon were also frequent consignors of timber from the Bower Farm and Gotwick Farm, in East Grinstead, and also from Blindley Heath and West Hoathly to Westminster, Vauxhall or Lambeth; Messrs. White and Jourdon from Crabbet, Worth; the Crosses, Lingfield, and elsewhere to London. Another merchant doing a large business then between this town and London was Mr. Walters. "Esquire" Evelyn then had Felbridge Park, and his name figures frequently in the book as a creditor for corn, &c., sold to the worthy carrier.

"Master Turner of Ember Horn," also figures occasionally in the ledger, as also does Mr. Edward Prentis as a buyer of timber from the same estate, and from Laberty (possibly Lavortye, a part of Brambletye), his timber going to Tonbridge wharf, for distribution over Kent. Mr. Edward Belchambers and afterwards Messrs. Belchambers & Rose were apparently trading in 1769 as timber merchants, for some thousands of planks and scantlings were brought for them to East Grinstead Common from Blockfield Farm, Blackham, Crawley Down and elsewhere, and thence distributed to London and all parts of the country.

The whole of the entries in this extremely interesting book are beautifully written, though the orthography is peculiar. The following recipes on the final page may give a useful (?) hint to horse owners of the present time:—

A Reaceat for to Cure a Brokeing Winding Horse. The first thing you must do is to Bleed the Horse in the Vain of the Nick, then give him Holfe a Pint of Sweet Oile the first day, the nixt day you most give him a quort of Ases milk, a quort of Surrup of Howr Hound, a Pint of Red Wine, a Pound and quorton of Honey, 2 ounces of Spanish Lickrish, and Stire it all together for 10 minnetts and Keep him fasting for 2 Howrs bfore and after.—this Reaseat will Cure.

A Reaceat for to Cure a Horse that Bleed at nose. Take three Handfulls of Bramble Leaves and Three Handfulls of Hunny Suckles Leaves and three Handfulls of Stinging Nettles. Put them in 3 quorts of Spring Water and Stew them till it Comes to a quort.

# EAST GRINSTEAD AND ITS COACHING HISTORY,

WITH SOME NOTES ON THE BATCHELAR FAMILY.

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## CHAPTER X.

EXCEPT for the carrying of merchandise, East Grinstead seems for a very long period to have contented itself with the facilities for passenger traffic afforded by the through coaches which ran between London, Lewes and Brighthelmstone. The road through this town was by far the oldest and for a long period the chief route. The distance was 58 miles and horses were changed at Croydon, Godstone Green, East Grinstead, Uckfield and Lewes. The first person to set up any stage coach between London and the county town was one Batchelar, who ran a coach long prior to turnpikes being created. This business was handed from father to son until it came into the hands of the real pioneer of the Brighton coaching era, James Batchelar, whose family had by this time become of some importance and considerable owners of property in and around East Grinstead. They originally sprung from Easingwald, in Yorkshire, one branch settling in Norfolk and another in Sussex. Their coat of arms—three wings and three *fleur-de-lis*—suggests that the family had a French origin. James Batchelar began a proper coach service through the town of East Grinstead in May, 1756. In this year the Batchelars were living at the Dorset Arms, in this town, while they also held a lease of the Moats Farm, granted them by Mrs. Payne, widow of Mr. Charles Payne, and her daughter Anna, afterwards Mrs. Gibbs Crawford, of Saint Hill.

Moat Road, East Grinstead, is named after this particular farm, which then covered the whole site of the present thoroughfare and included also Stoneleigh and the nursery gardens. The following entry is from

John Batchelar's account book, he apparently looking after the agricultural work at that time and James dealing with the coaching:—

Janry. the 9, 1764. Then A Greed with John Hills to do all ye work in the hop Garding att the Motes as the year before for Six pounds 6s.

The hop garden disappeared many years ago. It is clear that Batchelar kept a good supply of horses before this date, for his own records, kindly placed in my hands by his descendant, Mr. George Batchelar, of Lingfield, show that in 1743 £76 was paid for oats at home, but in 1764 this item had risen to £148. 19s. 9d. for the year, the price at this time ranging from 13s. 6d. to 17s. per quarter. The family then occupied not only Moats, but also Lunnenden (now Lullenden) Farm, while they also owned the Anchor at Croydon and Stumps and Gates Farms, in the parish of Lingfield, then held of the Manor of Imberhorne. On July 21st, 1817, James, the then owner, cut 33 oak trees on Gates Farm and sold them to Mr. John Stenning for £150, handing over to Mr. George Bankin, jun., "for his part for the Lord of the Manor," £70. Mr. Bankin was a well-known solicitor in East Grinstead and died on February 11th, 1847, aged 75. Mr. George Batchelar's grandfather, James, and his three brothers were all born at the Dorset Arms, East Grinstead. A sister, Mary, married a clergyman named Blagden, and an oil painting still exists of her and her husband. The James of coaching fame died about 1763. His brother John continued to drive the coach and the widow carried on the business for some years; indeed, she did not die until 1817. The property passed to her son James and he sold Stumps and Gates Farms to a Mr. Grange, who amalgamated them under the one name of The Grange, after his own patronymic, and the estate has perpetuated the fact of his brief ownership ever since. The property was afterwards sold to Mr. St. George and it has since passed through the hands of the Dumelope, Hastie, Yatman, Budd and Hubbard families, and is now owned by Mr. Reeve.

But to return to coaching matters. Mr. George Batchelar has one of the original posters, issued in May, 1756, announcing that James Batchelar's "New Machine" would run every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from the George Inn, Haymarket, to East Grinstead, Lewes and Brighton, completing the journey in one day, returning on the other days of the week. The full fare between London and Brighton was 16 shillings (including 14-lbs. of luggage) for inside passengers, but only half that sum for those who rode outside. The fare from East Grinstead to London was 6s. The old account books contain many entries showing the payment of this sum per seat. The turnpike dues between East Grinstead and London were 2s. and the sum paid for stabling in town was always 7s. 2d. a day. At the same time Batchelar ran a second coach from the Talbot Inn, in the Borough, to Godstone, East Grinstead and Lewes, starting each Tuesday at nine o'clock and Saturday at five o'clock. In all his advertisements and on all his posters he inserted the words "If God permit," a provision possibly rendered necessary in consequence of the disgraceful state of the roads in these early days. The payment to the employes at this time was not a particularly heavy item, as witness the following extracts from Batchelar's diary:—

May 19, 1734. Agreed with John Stenning to sarve me to old Mich<sup>r</sup> Day for 2s. 6d. for weeke.

July 2, 1742. A Greead with Rob. Wickarsham to mow 15 akars of grass for one and twenty pence per akar.

This man farmed part of the present East Court Estate.

Oct. 10, 1746. A Greade with old Gibb for James for four pound four shillings and a pair of shows (shoes) for one year.

Sept. 29, 1750. A Gread with Rich<sup>d</sup> Mills for three pounds ten shillings for a year.

Feb. 9, 1750. Pd. Richd. Mathews in full for one yeares wagers toe Feb. the 6th. £3-3-0.

A year later the same man got seven guineas for his year.

Oct. 7, 1759. Agreead with John Hills to old mickelmas next for seven shillings pr. week.

Occasionally his men gave him trouble, for we find on—

Aug. 17, 1750. Crissmas Kilner lost a tosing up att London of my money = 14s. 6d.

Dec. 25, 1754. Crismas Kilner pd. me short 9s.

Judging from his name he had possibly been celebrating his birthday.

Ap. 23, 1755. Crismas Kilner pd. me short 14s.

Some of these men were, no doubt, agricultural labourers and not all engaged solely in the coaching business. His general cartage work entailed other expenses, as this entry shows:—

Nov. 3, 1754. Gave Mr. Harman and his wife one ginney for to go through his ground with my waggons from the Mays wood till one month after Lady Day next.

The business was, no doubt, a profitable one and opposition soon sprang up. J. Tubb and S. Brawne started, on June 7th, 1762, a “new *Flying Machine*, hung on steel springs, very neat and commodious,” from the Golden Cross, at Charing Cross, *via* East Grinstead to Brighton. This vehicle did the down journey on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and the up on the alternate days. The fares were the same as Batchelar’s, who, in order to cope with this interference with his old custom, started “a new large *Flying Chariot*, with a box and four horses to carry two Passengers only, except three should desire to go together.” But the new-comers still drew his patrons away, so Batchelar lowered his prices. This so irritated Tubb that he rushed into print, and in the *Lewes Journal* of November, 1762, then the only paper published in the County of Sussex and now known as the *Sussex Advertiser*, appeared a notice in which he said:—

Gentlemen, Ladies, and others, are desired to look narrowly into the Meanness and Design of the other Flying Machine to Lewes and Brighthelmston, in lowering his prices, whether ’tis thro’ conscience or an endeavour to suppress me. If the former is the case, think how you have been used for a great number of years, when he engrossed the whole to himself, and kept you two days upon the road, going fifty miles. If the latter, and he should be lucky enough to succeed in it, judge whether he wont return to his old prices, when you cannot help yourselves, and use you as formerly. As I have then, been the remover

of this obstacle, which you have all granted by your great encouragement of me hitherto, I, therefore, hope for the continuance of your favours, which will entirely frustrate the deep-laid schemes of my great opponent, and lay a lasting obligation on,

Your very humble servant,

J. Tubb.

The blood of the Batchelars was up, and the following week the same paper contained this answer:—

Whereas Mr. Tubb, by an Advertisement in this paper of Monday last, has thought fit to cast some invidious reflexions upon me in respect of the lowering my Prices and being two days upon the road with other low insinuations, I beg leave to submit the following matters to the calm Consideration of the Gentlemen, Ladies and other Passengers, of what Degree soever, who have been pleased to favour me, viz.:—

That our Family first set up the Stage Coach from London to Lewes, and have continued it for a long Series of Years, from Father to Son, and other Branches of the same Race, and that even before the Turn-pikes on the Lewes Road were erected they drove their Stage, in the Summer Season, in one day, and have continued to do so ever since, and now in the Winter Season twice in the week. And it is likewise to be considered that many aged and infirm Persons, who did not chuse to rise early in the morning, were very desirous to be two Days on the road for their own Ease and Conveniency, therefore there was no Obstacle to be removed. And as to lowering my prices, let every one judge whether, when an old Servant of the Country perceives an Endeavour to suppress and supplant him in his Business, he is not well justified in taking all measures in his Power for his own Security, and even to oppose an unfair Adversary so far as he can. 'Tis, therefore, hoped that the Descendants of your very ancient Servants will still meet with your farther Encouragement, and leave the schemes of our little Opponent to their proper deserts.

I am, Your old and present

most obedient Servant,

J. Batchelar.

O disingenuous Batchelar! You did not inform your London and Brighton patrons that the two-days' journey was broken at the Dorset Arms, East Grinstead; that your own family owned that famous hostelry, and that they drew not only the coaching fee, but also the lodging bill of those who "did not chuse to rise early in the morning." But his burst of virtuous indignation seems to have had its effect, for J. Tubb did not reply to his "great opponent." He bided his time and a few years later purchased from Batchelar's executors the rival business which had given him such sad worrying.

In 1770 East Grinstead was served from London on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, the coach leaving the Golden Cross at Charing Cross at five a.m., passing through to Brighton and returning during the night, leaving the coast town at five p.m. and East Grinstead about nine p.m. At this same time a waggon regularly ran between the Dorset at East Grinstead and the Talbot in the Borough, but what accommodation it afforded is not now known. We do know its outgoings, for Batchelar records in his journal, under date November 4th, 1761, the fact that his

Expences for the wagon and man three days to the Talbot Inn without going into the settey (City) come to about £1. 2s.

Shortly afterwards the present main road between London and Brighton began to meet with more favour, and one by one the through coaches ceased to visit East Grinstead, until at last our town was almost left to shift for itself in providing communication with the outside world. In 1790 the East Grinstead route had fallen so low in favour that a writer afterwards thought fit to say of it:—"There were three roads from Brighton to London. The first and chief passed through Cuckfield and Reigate. This was the Appian way for the high nobility of England. The other two were vulgar." *O tempora, O mores!* What a slight on the wild beauties of Ashdown Forest and the quaint picturesqueness of our fine old town!

According to Cary's "Itinerary of the Great Roads," only one coach was running in 1815 solely between London and East Grinstead. This left the Spur Inn, Borough, at three o'clock each day, arriving at the Dorset Arms, East Grinstead, at eight o'clock in the evening. It returned each morning at 7 a.m., arriving in the Borough at 12 noon. The service from the south was also daily, a coach starting from North Street, Brighton, every morning "in the season" at seven o'clock and going through East Grinstead to London, completing the journey in ten hours, so that this town had a second service to the Metropolis.



Another volume published at the same time, entitled "The Three Grand Routes from Brighton to London," announced, as one of the attractions of the town at that time, that at the Dorset Arms Hotel a ball was annually given by the subscribers of a Book Society. In a contemporary diary is recorded, "1842, Oct. 19. Book Club Ball at the Crown. A scene of vanity." Dumsdale, a tailor in a small way of business in East Grinstead, had a son who was a cripple from his childhood, and he built for him a light four-wheeled cart, to which young Dumsdale used to harness an unicorn team of bulldogs. He made his way to London in February, 1830, and drove down the Strand. He used to do the 28 miles from East Grinstead to Brighton comfortably in four hours, and often beat the coach that travelled by this road, occasionally doing ten miles an hour. Dumsdale was generally permitted by the toll-gate keepers to travel toll free.

Some ten years later a pair-horse coach used to run daily from the Dorset Arms through Lingfield on to Godstone, with passengers. Here they were met by a four-horse coach which ran from Bletchingley to London, until the line from Godstone to London was opened, and then on October 5th, 1842, a daily service between East Grinstead and Godstone Station was commenced. This was temporarily stopped on March 20th, 1843, but resumed in the course of a few months. The coaches seem to have been fairly free of mishaps, but on September 7th, 1842, the Grinstead coach was overturned on the Common. The horses were blinded by a flash of lightning, got off the road and upset the coach, but the six passengers all escaped with nothing worse than a severe shaking.

This pair-horse coach was for a long time driven by a man named Bashford, who died on December 31st, 1846, and to him succeeded William Thomas, whom many will still remember as the driver of Mr. Southey's hearse. The Godstone vehicle was always called "the bus" and had its headquarters at the Dorset. On May 16th, 1849, it commenced to do the journey twice daily. The

opening of the main line at Three Bridges took place on July 12th, 1841, but East Grinstead took no steps to get a regular connection with the line there until June 4th, 1849, when a vehicle, always called "the coach," to distinguish it from the Godstone "bus," began to run twice daily from the Swan at East Grinstead to the Station at Three Bridges, and was driven by a man named Holdsworth until 1855, when the railway between Three Bridges and East Grinstead was opened.

By the time the South-Eastern Line was opened the Batchelars had removed to Lingfield, and the James of that day issued a bill on March 28th, 1844, stating that in future his goods would be taken by rail from Godstone to London and back every Tuesday and Friday,

by which arrangement he will be enabled to deliver them, at a much CHEAPER RATE than before, and most respectfully solicits a continuance of those favours which have been entrusted to him and his Family upwards of 100 years, feeling confident that, with the aid of the Railway, he shall be able to forward, in any quantities, to the perfect satisfaction of his Friends and Employers.

The last of the mail coaches which ran between London and Brighton was taken off the road in 1841. Among the habitual visitors to the Dorset Arms during its long career as a coaching house were the eccentric Lord Liverpool, who owned Buxted Park; Lord Abergavenny, who then lived at Kidbrooke Park; Lord Seymour, Lord Delawarr, Spencer Perceval—the Prime Minister who was murdered—and several of the ladies who attracted the amorous attentions of the Prince Regent, one of whom actually left her luncheon bills to be settled by the State. In 1827 the Princess Victoria passed through East Grinstead, accompanied by her mother, the Duchess of Kent. They changed horses at the Dorset Arms and while waiting there were loudly cheered by a great gathering of inhabitants.

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# TOLL-GATES AND ROAD MANAGEMENT.

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## CHAPTER XI.

THE first effective attempt to get the main road running from London to East Grinstead put into a proper state of repair and placed under organised management was made in the year 1717. Many of the users of the road became alarmed at the proposals and petitioned Parliament that they might be freed and exempted from any charge likely to be enforced in consequence of making good the highway, and that they might be at liberty to pass as usual to and from London free of expense. But their prayer was not listened to, and in the following year the Act was passed creating the Turnpike Trust over the road which ran from London, through Godstone to East Grinstead. At this time and for many years later an argument prevailed with Sussex people that if they made good roads through the county the French would immediately invade England and use the roads on their march to the Metropolis.

The Act in question set forth in its preamble that the road running from London to East Grinstead, by reason of the heavy traffic, was becoming "very ruinous and almost impassable for the space of five months in the year," therefore Trustees were appointed with power to erect turnpikes and charge tolls and devote one-third of one-half of the proceeds to amending the road from Croydon to East Grinstead. This Act was to continue in force for 21 years, but by 1720 the Trustees had expended £11,000 on the road over and above the amount of the tolls, and to enable them to borrow with greater ease the Act was extended for 23 years in all. In 1724 another Act was passed extending the Trust so as to include the road right through the town of East Grinstead and on to Highgate, which was then the entrance to Ashdown Forest.

The borrowing of £2,500 for repairing the road from Croydon to Highgate was authorised ; the meeting place

for the local Trustees was fixed at the Crown Inn; and, for the first time, all coaches and persons on horseback were ordered to be allowed to go free on the days of election of Members of Parliament in Surrey or Sussex. Funds running short, another Act was passed in 1731 putting on additional tolls of one penny for animals and threepence to sixpence for vehicles. Six years later Parliament again dealt with the matter and continued the Acts for 15 years after March 25th, 1762, and as and from July 25th, 1737, doubled many of the existing tolls. A general Act passed about the same time fixed very severe penalties for those who interfered with the toll-gates or their keepers. They were to undergo imprisonment for three months and to be "once publicly and openly whipt" in the market place of the nearest town to which the offence was committed.

The whole of the general laws relating to turnpike roads in England were embodied in one Act passed in 1768. Specific widths of wheels and weights were defined for every class of vehicle, and the Turnpike Trustees were empowered to erect cranes, machines or engines at each toll-gate to weigh all vehicles and charge all overweight 20s. per cwt. No four-wheeled vehicle was allowed more than eight horses and no two-wheeled vehicle more than four, but the number could be increased during times of deep snow and ice. Every vehicle with wheels less than six inches wide had to pay half as much again as the specified tolls, and after 1776 this penalty for light running traps was increased to double the amount set forth in any previous Act of Parliament. In the same year all tyres were first compelled to be flat and the nails sunk so as not to rise above the surface.

This is a copy of the notice as to weights posted on the East Grinstead toll-gate 130 years ago:—

Table of Weights Allowed in Winter and Summer  
(including the Carriage and Loading).

	SUMMER. TONS. CWTs.	WINTER. TONS. CWTs.
To every Waggon upon Rollers, of the Breadth of 16 Inches .....	8 0 ..	7 0
To every Waggon with 9 Inch Wheels, rolling a Surface of 16 Inches on each Side.....	6 10 ..	6 0

	SUMMER. TONS. CWTs.	WINTER. TONS. CWTs.
To every Waggon with 9 Inch Wheels .....	6 0 ..	5 10
„ Cart „ „ „ .....	3 0 ..	2 15
„ Wagon „ 6 „ .....	4 5 ..	3 15
„ „ „ „ „ rolling		
„ a Surface of 11 Inches .....	5 10 ..	5 0
To every Cart with 6 Inch Wheels ....	2 12 ..	2 7
„ Waggon with Wheels of less Breadth		
„ than 6 Inches .....	3 10 ..	3 0
To every Cart with Wheels of less Breadth than		
6 Inches .....	1 10 ..	1 7

In 1784 the powers of the London to Highgate Trustees were greatly enlarged and they were given the sole control of the road between the points named. The Trustees were about 200 in number and included the Vicar of East Grinstead and some 20 other local residents. Their qualification was the enjoyment of land worth £40 a year, or the possession of personal estate worth £800. For the purpose of carrying out the Act they were given all the powers of Justices of the Peace, whether they were Magistrates or not. They were strictly forbidden to appoint any innkeeper to any office under the Trust, but this did not apply to a person who farmed the tolls, as the last toll-gate keeper at the point where Surrey and Sussex joined at Felbridge was Mr. George Worsell, who also occupied the Star Inn. The following were the tolls then demanded at the toll-house in East Grinstead, which stood at the southern entrance to the town, on the land which now forms part of the forecourt of Dr. Poynder's house :—

For every Horse, Mule or Ass, laden or unladen, and not drawing	1d.
For every Chaise, or other such like Carriage, drawn by One Horse only .....	2d.
For every Coach, Chariot, Landau, Berlin, Hearse, Chaise, Calash or other such like Carriage, drawn by Two or more Horses .....	6d.
For every Cart, Dray or other such like Carriage.....	2d.
For every Wagon, not laden with Hay or Straw .....	6d.
For every Waggon, laden with Hay or Straw .....	3d.

For every Drove of Oxen, or other Neat Cattle, the sum of Two-pence per Score ; and so in proportion for every greater or lesser number.

For every Drove of Calves, Hogs, Sheep or Lambs, the sum of One Penny per Score ; and so in proportion for every greater or lesser number.

These tolls were considerably increased in after years, for some vehicles had to pay as much as eighteenpence.

Among the vehicles exempted from tolls were those which carried fish; road-mending material; manure for local land; bricks or timber for local buildings; hay, corn or straw during harvest time; agricultural implements; vagrants sent by legal passes, and persons going to or from an election.

In 1850 occurs the first mention of horseless vehicles, the Sussex and Surrey Roads Act (13 and 14 Victoria) fixing these tolls for East Grinstead:—

	s.	d.
For every carriage with four or more wheels, not drawn by any horse or other beast, but propelled or moved by machinery	2	0
For every carriage with three or a less number of wheels, not drawn by any horse or beast, but propelled or moved by machinery .....	1	0

The first steam plough passed through the town on April 18th, 1864, and its passage, without horses, excited intense interest.

The instances in which the Turnpike Trustees themselves managed the toll-gates were comparatively few in number. They farmed the tolls, the same being disposed of, at a properly convened meeting, by public auction. Parliament itself laid down the conditions of sale, which included the following:—

To prevent fraud or any undue preference in the letting thereof, the Trustees are hereby required to provide a Glass with so much Sand in it as will run from One End of it to the other in One Minute; which Glass, at the Time of letting the said Tolls, shall be set upon a Table, and immediately after every Bidding the Glass shall be turned, and as soon as the Sand is run out it shall be turned again, and so for Three Times, unless some other Bidding intervenes: And if no other Person shall bid until the Sand shall have run through the Glass for Three Times, the last Bidder shall be the Farmer or Renter of the said Tolls.

On February 15th, 1809, the Trustees of that portion of the turnpike road running from Godstone to Highgate, Forest Row, petitioned Parliament for an enlargement of the powers given them under three previous Acts, as the money already borrowed on the security of the tolls was not sufficient to keep the road in decent repair. The expedition with which Parliament dealt with the matter

is little short of marvellous. The petition was referred to two Members. A week later leave was given to bring in a Bill. It was before the House on March 13th; passed its third reading by April 18th; was agreed to by the Lords on the 24th, and received the Royal assent on the 28th. Thus in a little over two months was done what would possibly now take two years. The local turnpikes were abolished some 70 years later, and on June 27th, 1882, the road through East Grinstead was declared a main road and taken over by the county authorities, as and from October 16th following.

We hear very little now about the "Old Road" and the "New Road," though the names still linger in the memories of some residents. The town was originally approached from Forest Row by the disused road which turned in some 50 yards on the town side of Budgen's Barn and traversed what is now called Frog's Hole, a dangerous, circuitous route for vehicular traffic. About 70 years ago the then Earl De la Warr purchased a number of old and dilapidated buildings which surrounded Sackville College and had them removed, the present wide roadway which provides so charming an approach to our town from the Lewes road being made at the same time.

The approach to the town from what is now known as Sunnyside was originally by way of Hurst-an-Clays coach road, that being a public thoroughfare up to 1860. The necessary land for the making of Ship Street on its present site was given by the late Mr. C. C. Tooke, in return for a relinquishment of all public rights over the old road which led immediately past his front door and under the dove-cote. The scheme was approved by the Vestry on October 2nd, 1860.

An exact and careful measurement of all the roads in the parish was completed on March 14th, 1881, and the following table of distances was compiled:—

	Miles. Yds.	
From Felbridge, through the town, to Wych Cross.....	6	1653
Imberhorne Lane, from near Felbridge, to Hazelden Cross	1	1395
From Hazelden Cross to Saint Hill Green.....		1186
" " " " Hurley Farm .....	1	556

	Miles.	Yds.
From the town end of West Street to Hazelden Cross . . . .	1	528
„ the top of West Street, by the Ship Inn, to Tyes Cross	3	1546
„ the Crossways, near Hurst-an-Clays dove-cote, to the Town by the Hermitage . . . . .		692
„ Tyes Cross to Forest Row Church . . . . .	3	826
„ Ashdown Park to Stone Farm . . . . .	4	246
„ the Forest Road to Twyford Lodge . . . . .		548
Lingfield Road, from London Road to the County Boundary		833
Opposite Miles' Cottage at Felbridge . . . . .		216
Hartfield district turnpike road . . . . .	1	888
From Forest Row to Park Corner . . . . .		1128
„ Ashurst Wood to East Grinstead Lane, by Shovel- strode . . . . .	2	648
Road at Ashurst Wood, opposite Brambletye lower lodge ..		40
From Hartfield Parish, by East Grinstead Lane, to the Town	3	1700
Frog's Hole Road . . . . .		243
Shepherd's Grove Road . . . . .		596
From the Larches to Sandhawes Hill . . . . .		182
Total . . . . .	33	1570

Since that date many new roads have been laid out, and the following, within the Urban District, at present taken over by the public authority, completes the list to date:—

	Yards.
Portlands Road . . . . .	417
Moat Road . . . . .	434
Cranston Road . . . . .	418
Maypole Road . . . . .	121
Durkins Road . . . . .	180
Green Hedges Avenue . . . . .	99
Queen's Road . . . . .	440
Wellington Town Road . . . . .	264
Charlwoods Row . . . . .	70
Lower Glen Vue . . . . .	110
Glen Vue . . . . .	313
Station Road . . . . .	209
De la Warr Road . . . . .	330
Cantelupe Road . . . . .	418
Chequer Road . . . . .	99
St. James' Road . . . . .	198
Fairfield Road . . . . .	225

This gives a total of 36 miles, 635 yards, of which there are in the existing parish of East Grinstead:—

	Miles.	Yds.
Main County Road . . . . .	3	338
District Roads . . . . .	15	1330
Total . . . . .	18	1668



# THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RAILWAY.

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## CHAPTER XII.

THE residents of East Grinstead and the neighbourhood first began to agitate for railway facilities in 1845. On October 10th of that year a public meeting was held at the Crown Hotel and an influential committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Robert Crawford, of Saint Hill, was formed to facilitate the scheme. Numerous meetings followed in rapid succession and at a very large gathering held on November 6th a decision was come to, but not unanimously, in favour of a branch running from East Grinstead to join the South-Eastern Company's line at Godstone. This gave great annoyance to many of the gentry, who strongly favoured a branch to join the South Coast Company's line at Three Bridges. Encouraged by both the decision and the opposition, surveys were immediately commenced for both lines, and the two Companies named went to Parliament, each with a Bill to secure the necessary powers. The South-Eastern was unwise enough to change the proposed site of its terminus from where the Urban Council offices now stand to a less convenient spot; a public meeting held on March 4th, 1846, protested against the alteration; the Company would not give in, so on the 14th of the same month, at a great public gathering, the inhabitants decided that "owing to the want of straightforwardness in the South-Eastern Company" they would withdraw support from their scheme and transfer it entirely to the Brighton Company's proposals. This was apparently the turning point in the fight between the two Companies, for six days later the Brighton Company's Bill passed a Committee of the House of Commons and that of the South-Eastern Company was rejected. The raising of £106,666 was authorised to carry out the work and duly subscribed, but the railway panic of the following year induced the Company to devote the money to some other purpose, and so the town lost the benefit of both schemes.

This action on the part of the Railway Company gave great dissatisfaction, and so indignant did the residents of East Grinstead become at the delay shown in carrying out the approved proposals that on June 5th, 1848, a public meeting was held and a large number of signatures obtained to a petition to the House of Lords praying them not to grant permission to the South-Coast Company to commence any more new projects until they had completed the East Grinstead and Three Bridges branch. Nothing came of the agitation, however, and in the summer of 1852 the residents of East Grinstead and the district intervening between this town and the main line themselves took the matter up in earnest, formed a Company in September of that year, raised the necessary capital, went to Parliament and got their Bill provisionally approved on May 12th, 1853, the reception of the news being made the occasion of great rejoicing in the town. The Act finally passed both Houses on July 8th. The first sod was cut by Mrs. A. Hastie on November 22nd of the same year, and the first engine passed over the new line on June 6th, 1855. A month later, on July 9th, ordinary traffic commenced. The first train ran out of East Grinstead at 12.15 and returned from Three Bridges at one o'clock, some hundreds of townspeople being carried free of charge. It was a day of great festivity in East Grinstead. All the shops were closed at noon; a band came up from Brighton; the church bells were rung; flags were flying; over 200 sat down to a banquet served on Mr. Hastie's lawn; and the six trains in and out were all well patronised. The building of the line cost £53,000, and incidental expenses brought up the capital expenditure to £60,000, of which £10,000 was raised by debentures and £50,000 by shares of £25 each. The original East Grinstead terminus was where the goods station house now stands. Later, when the line was extended to Tunbridge Wells in 1866, the now disused station below the bridge in London Road came into use, and the entrance on the bridge and down the steps was provided. This finally ceased to be used for passenger traffic on October 14th, 1883, when the present

more commodious station was opened and approached by way of Glen Vue. There was originally no station at Grange Road. Sir C. M. Lampson sold his land rather cheaply on condition that a station should be built at Rowfant and that the train leaving East Grinstead each morning between nine and ten o'clock, or the nearest to those hours, should always stop there, and this arrangement is still in force.

The provisional Directors of the Company, according to its prospectus, were Mr. J. Dorrien Magens, of Hammerwood (Chairman), Mr. George Head (Banker, of East Grinstead), Mr. F. Moor (Holywych, Hartfield), Mr. Wm. Stenning (Halsford), Mr. C. C. Tooke (Hurst-an-Clays) and Mr. F. C. Worsley (Imberhorne), with Messrs. Wm. Pearless and Arthur Hastie as joint secretaries. The two latter acted until the Company was wound up, but the Directors were reduced to four in number, and the following acted for almost the whole time of the Company's existence: Messrs. J. D. Magens, B. Hale, W. Stenning and G. Head. Before it was completed arrangements were made for leasing the line to the Brighton Railway Company for £2,000 per annum, not a very satisfactory financial bargain, as by the time all expenses had been met and interest on debentures paid there was not enough left for a 3 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares, and the most the shareholders ever got in one year was £2. 18s. 8d. per cent. The Brighton Company had a purchasing clause in the lease, and in 1865 they put this in force, taking over the debenture debt of £10,000 and paying £43,000 in addition, so that the shareholders in the East Grinstead Railway Company did not get back their capital in full. The expenses of managing the Company were only about £60 a year. The Directors drew £20 a year between them, the two Secretaries only £12. 10s. each and the two Auditors (Messrs. John Mills and John Turley) a guinea each. Such economy of working is sufficiently rare as to merit notice.

At the outset the Sunday trains were naturally more freely patronised than were those on week-days, and this

brought about strong protests, the leader in the agitation being the Rev. H. Woodington, who was then Curate here. He used to go to the station at train time, distribute tracts and urge the people to listen to the church bell rather than the railway bell. A public meeting was held in reference to the matter, but the agitation was devoid of results, for Sunday trains have not yet ceased to run.

The first turf of the section between East Grinstead and Tunbridge Wells was cut on July 18th, 1864, by Lord West; and a company of about 300, including the Bishop of Oxford and many noblemen, celebrated the event with a sumptuous luncheon, at which there was no stint of either wine or meat. This section of line was opened on October 1st, 1866, without any public ceremony in East Grinstead. At the same time there were numerous other projects in view in which East Grinstead was to play a leading part. Bills were introduced for a line from London to Beckenham, East Grinstead, Lewes and Brighton; another from Redhill to East Grinstead; and a third from East Grinstead to Uckfield; but not one of these projects met with the approval of Parliament. The first-named did pass the Lords on July 25th, 1866, and the East Grinstead church bells were set ringing, the band was called out and torches and tar barrels were lighted and carried through the town. The place of this proposed line was taken nearly 20 years later by the South-Coast Company's low-level route from Lewes, through East Grinstead, to a junction with the old main line at South Croydon. The southern section below East Grinstead was opened in August, 1882, and the northern part in March, 1884.

In making the new line from East Grinstead to Croydon the Railway Company took possession of the Old Parish Pound and paid the sum of £50 to the Churchwardens and Overseers for it. Subsequently, Mr. A. H. Hastie, on behalf of Lord Sackville, Lord of the Manor of Imberhorne, claimed the money. The ratepayers, in vestry assembled, declined to part, so Lord Sackville claimed the sum from the Company and

they eventually paid him and reclaimed the money from the parish, and it was refunded to the Railway Company some three years later.

The following table gives particulars of the lengths and dates of opening of the five lines running out of East Grinstead :—

Route.	Authorised.	Opened.	Length. Miles. Chains.	
East Grinstead to Three Bridges .....	July 8, 1853	July 9, 1855	6	71
East Grinstead to Groombridge .....	Aug. 7, 1862	Oct. 1, 1866	10	10
East Grinstead to Culver Junction .....	Aug. 10, 1877	Aug. 1, 1882	17	13
East Grinstead to South Croydon .....	June 17, 1878	Mar. 10, 1884	18	70
East Grinstead to St. Margaret's Junction (loop line) .....	„ „	„ „		55

In the following table is given the train service as it was on the opening day of each section :—

#### EAST GRINSTEAD AND LONDON (*via* THREE BRIDGES).

JULY, 1855.

	<i>Week-days.</i>						<i>Sundays.</i>	
London .....(dep.)	6.0	10.0	12.0	4.0	5.5	6.0	7.0	6.0
East Grinstead ....(arr.)	8.20	11.20	1.20	5.15	6.30	7.40	9.14	7.50
East Grinstead ....(dep.)	6.55	8.30	11.30	3.50	6.50		7.50	6.50
London .....(arr.)	9.15	9.50	1.0	5.25	8.45		10.45	9.0

#### EAST GRINSTEAD AND TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

OCTOBER, 1866.

Tunbridge Wells ..(dep.)	7.53	9.0	11.10	3.5	5.40	7.35	8.16	5.46
East Grinstead ....(arr.)	8.25	9.26	11.42	3.27	6.12	8.7	8.48	6.18
East Grinstead ....(dep.)	9.33	1.7	3.41	5.16	6.13	8.11	10.20	8.5
Tunbridge Wells ..(arr.)	10.5	1.39	4.13	5.40	6.45	8.43	10.52	8.37

#### EAST GRINSTEAD AND LEWES.

AUGUST, 1882.

Lewes .....(dep.)	8.15	10.47	2.42	6.30	9.0	8.52	2.47	6.37
East Grinstead ....(arr.)	9.25	11.53	3.48	6.35	10.6	9.58	3.52	7.43
East Grinstead ....(dep.)	6.45	9.55	1.20	5.45	9.10	10.35	4.20	8.15
Lewes .....(arr.)	7.46	10.56	2.21	6.51	10.22	11.36	5.21	9.16

#### EAST GRINSTEAD AND LONDON (*via* OXTED).

MARCH, 1884.

London .....(dep.)	8.10	11.50	4.10	7.27	8.40	6.50
East Grinstead ....(arr.)	9.23	1.3	5.26	8.40	9.53	8.3
East Grinstead ....(dep.)	8.7	10.22	2.55	8.55	9.58	8.8
London .....(arr.)	9.24	11.35	4.8	10.8	11.12	9.22

# THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

## CHAPTER XIII.

A COMMITTEE was appointed in 1779 to carry into execution a plan for raising 24 Volunteer Companies to be associated for the defence of Sussex, and Captains were appointed in the different Rapes of this County, but the movement would seem to have been of a temporary character. However, in the year 1803 so real and acute became the fear of an invasion of this country by the French that the inhabitants of East Grinstead and the surrounding neighbourhood, comprising the northern district of the Rape of Pevensey, offered to form a legion of 1,220 men, consisting of two troops of cavalry, two companies of riflemen or skirmishers, and 12 light infantry companies. The then Lord Sheffield was at the head of the movement; it was strongly backed up by the Duke of Richmond, and George III. was "graciously pleased to approve and accept" it, especially as the Legion asked nothing from Government but arms for the infantry and "a jacket and pantaloons for such of the infantry as cannot afford to supply themselves; or an allowance of one guinea each to furnish the same." Thus sprung into being the first local volunteer military organisation. The first East Grinstead officers were:—

The Rt. Hon. Charles Abbot, Kidbrook (Speaker of the House of Commons)	Lieut.-Colonel.
Edward Cranston, East Court .....	Major.
Magens Dorrien Magens, Hammerwood	Capt.-Lieutenant.
Alexander Geo. Mackie, East Grinstead	1st Lieutenant.
John Shuter, East Grinstead .....	2nd     ,,
Thomas Palmer, jun., East Grinstead ..	,,     ,,

The following were the first non-commissioned officers :

David Duke .....	Paymaster Sergeant (afterwards 2nd Lieut.).
John Stenning ....	Sergeant.
John Palmer .....	,,     (afterwards Qr.-Master-Sergt.).
William Moon ....	Drill Sergeant.
James Lynn .....	Corporal.
John Trice .....	,,     (afterwards Sergeant).
William Pobgee ..	,,
Henry Bysh .....	,,

The oath of allegiance required from each Volunteer was:—

I, A. B., do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Third, and that I will faithfully serve His Majesty in the North Pevensey Legion against all his enemies and opposers whatsoever. So help me God.

This was taken after Divine service in the morning on Sunday, October 23rd, 1803, and in the evening the men were drilled for the first time in the Chequer Mead. A month later Lord Sheffield issued a special order, in which he thanked the Volunteers of East Grinstead "for their great attention and steadiness under arms, which at once renders them equal to any service."

By the end of the year the East Grinstead contingent, which had a total strength of 84, was in good working order. Sunday was always the day set apart for drills and field days, the former taking place in a large barn at the back of Newlands, the firing in the Pit field at Fairlight Farm, on Major Cranston's East Court estate, and the field manœuvres on Ashurst Wood Common. The men always slept with their arms and uniforms by their side and several days' provisions packed ready for use, so that no delay should ensue when the beacon signal flashed its warning light over the country side. It was arranged that in the event of invasion by Napoleon the families of all the gentry resident in the Lewes and Pevensey Rapes should be conveyed for safety to the wild district of Copthorne, the famous rendezvous of prize-fighters, smugglers and poachers. An enormous number of cartridges, both blank and ball, were served out, and the consumption of flints for use in the old flint-lock muskets was also considerable. At Christmas the signal for assembly was hourly expected. The East Grinstead Company was ordered to remain in the town, except for detaching a Lieutenant, Sergeant, Corporal and 20 men to Hartfield or Withyham. The general orders were amplified by Major Cranston on New Year's Day, 1804, in the following terms:—

The following regulations for the good of the Company, the Commanding Officer thinks it both prudent and proper to insert in orders,

to prevent confusion, should the enemy occasion an alarm, which seems to be daily expected. On the beacons being fired, or any other certain intelligence arriving, the drums are to beat to arms and the Company will immediately assemble, sending away one or two of the Volunteers to summon in the out-resident men. After the names are called over and the Officer Commanding has made out the real strength, he must then send a Sergeant to the Magistrate requesting him to order the constables to billet the Company as equally as possible among the public-houses. Those men, however, who have homes and families in the town will, of course, have no occasion for billet.

The men were divided up into messes of seven, orderlies were appointed, sentries nominated and every possible detail arranged to fit the Company for immediate active service. Before the Legion had been in existence nine months Lord Sheffield was able to issue the following very complimentary order:—

Lord Sheffield has been highly gratified by the general good conduct of the North Pevensey Legion, as observed during the late inspection. The attention, steadiness and soldierlike appearance of the Volunteers is truly honourable to them. The perseverance they have manifested will ensure that degree of perfection which is necessary to the formation of good troops, on which the welfare of the nation is to depend.

It may not be necessary during the ensuing hay and corn harvest to assemble for exercise on the week-days, but it is earnestly requested that the several troops and companies meet either early on the Sunday morning or in the afternoon, in order that they may not lose the ground they have gained so creditable to themselves, the necessity for their preparing to defend their religion, their liberty, their families and property being no less urgent than it has been at any period during the existence of the nation.

On July 8th, 1805, the Legion received its colours and the men swore they would never allow them to fall into the hands of the enemies of our country. They kept their word. Major Cranston occasionally read his men a severe lecture, but always finished with a stirring appeal to their patriotism. Here is an eloquent conclusion to one of his addresses:—

Let us then go forward with our present undertaking hand in hand, and become, in unanimity and in discipline, an example to the Legion, and still endeavour to retain that credit we already have acquired—that our names may be recorded for posterity to see that in an hour when danger threatened this happy Isle we (the Volunteers of East Grinstead) came forward to protect and defend our country and our King!



During August and September of 1805 the whole nation was in a ferment, and no one doubted but that the French would be landing before many weeks had passed. Precautions were doubled and all possible preparation made to resist invasion. Napoleon had concentrated an army of 130,000 men, 15,000 horses, 600 guns and a vast flotilla at Boulogne, and was only waiting for the junction of the French and Spanish fleets in the English Channel to carry out his purpose. Then came the ever memorable battle of Trafalgar on October 21st, 1805, and the temporary shattering of the maritime power of the two countries opposed to us. England breathed freely again and the general feelings of jubilation which prevailed may well be judged from the following "Orders" issued in East Grinstead:—

In consequence of His Majesty's proclamation for a general thanksgiving on Thursday, the 5th day of December next, for the late glorious and unexampled victories obtained over the combined fleets of France and Spain, by the late tho' ever memorable and most gallant Admiral Lord Viscount Nelson, and other distinguished officers of His Majesty's Royal Navy, the Volunteers are desired to assemble for parade in uniform with side-arms only at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 o'clock in order to proceed to church to unite in prayer and thanksgiving for those signal exercises so recently received, whereby the dread of invasion is in a great measure removed and may ultimately open to us the prospect of peace, when each of us may, without interruption from military service, pursue our respective avocations and rest secure under the pleasing reflection that in an hour when our country was in danger from the threatened attacks of our enemies—in which all that is dear and valuable would have fallen a sacrifice, without that general spirit and unanimity which hath so manifestly appeared in every rank and condition in life—we also came forward to contribute all in our power to the general cause.

On September 28th, 1806, the Legion was disbanded and the East Grinstead men were called on to hand back their arms and accoutrements at the Vestry on October 8th and to dine with the Speaker of the House of Commons at the Swan Hotel that evening. The order of dismissal seems to have given intense dissatisfaction. The Company met in the Play Field on Sunday, October 5th, to receive it, but before doing so addressed a letter to their Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Col. Cranston, setting forth that Lord Sheffield had tendered the

resignation of the services of the Legion "without any general consultation of the members thereof," and that the East Grinstead men, to vindicate their own honour and credit, could not but express their deep concern at

so unexpected and as we conceive unreasonable an event and do consider it is an extreme hard case that after a conscious and faithful discharge of our duty for upwards of three years, we should now be reduced to the unpleasant situation of meanly retiring from so laudable and beneficial an undertaking and, in consequence, becoming liable to serve in the Militia or other additional promiscuous force, as also that our past exertions should be thus ungratefully rewarded.

The letter proceeded at great length much in the same strain and the writers concluded by offering their services to form a distinct Company under the command of Lieut.-Col. Cranston. The offer was refused and on October 7th the East Grinstead men again met and decided to present a similar petition to the Speaker, who was also an officer of the Legion. Their wishes were again set forth at great length and the writers concluded with the following expressions:—

It is then, Honourable Sir, impress'd with these sentiments, we are now induc'd to tender our services under your command, for your acceptance and that of our country. But should our application fail and from other important duties of your exalted station, you cannot possibly meet the wishes of the Company—We shall then retire in silence under the reflection of having done, thus far, all in our power to assist in the general cause; and tho' obliged to yield to resignation on one hand, yet on the other willing to renew our services, were they thought of sufficient moment to meet acceptance. Still should the horrors of war threaten our native land and the inveteracy of our enemies increase towards us, we are determined individually to act like Britons, and in an hour of impending danger to use our efforts to defend and rescue our weeping country from every foe.

The Rt. Hon. Lieut.-Col. Abbot wrote back expressing his deep regrets that he was unable to accept the patriotic offer, but he promised that if the war continued and circumstances changed he would do his very best to enable the men of East Grinstead to give effect to their loyalty and ardour. Thus closed the three years' history of the East Grinstead contingent of the North Pevensey Legion.

The warlike spirit of our ancestors seems to have slumbered for 46 years, but in 1852 groundless fears of

another invasion by the French were disseminated and some of the townspeople were induced to ascertain which of the inhabitants would be ready to take up arms in case their hearths and homes were threatened. On July 12th of that year a public meeting was convened by Mr. R. Crawford, of Saint Hill, and the matter was talked over, but nothing definite was done. The Crimean war soon began and the Alliance between England and France caused public fears to subside, and no further attempt to re-establish a local Volunteer Company was made for seven years. Then came the Carbonari's attempt to assassinate Napoleon III. The conspirators had lived and prepared their bombs in London and the French soldiers looked on our Metropolis as a centre of conspiracies. A number of French colonels sent an address to the Emperor asking to be allowed to invade England and "rout out this nest of treasons." The address was published in the official organ of the French Government and England's immediate reply was the formation of the present body of Volunteers.

East Grinstead again took its fair share in the movement. A Rifle Club was formed in 1859, with Mr. W. A. Head as its Honorary Secretary, and a large sum of money was raised for its support. But it was thought better to form a Rifle Corps and some members were sworn in during November, 1859, but owing to informalities the ceremony had to be gone through again a few months later. The oath was administered by Earl De la Warr, and present on the Bench when the first contingent made allegiance was Mr. John Stenning, who was not a Magistrate, but had served in the local Company of the North Pevensey Legion as a Sergeant 56 years before. The first officers were Major A. R. Margary, Captain; Mr. A. C. Ramsden, Lieutenant; and Mr. W. A. Head, Ensign; and all three attended the reception of Volunteer officers held by Her late Majesty early in 1860. The first muster was on February 23rd, 1860, and 60 members formed the local Corps, which was known as the 5th Sussex Rifle Volunteers. In April of the same year three Administrative Battalions were formed for the whole

county and East Grinstead was put in the Third, with the Brighton, Cuckfield, Lewes and Battle Companies. It remained associated with this Battalion until January 22nd, 1862, when it was united to the 2nd Administrative Battalion of the Sussex R.V., the head quarters of which were at Petworth, where they remained until 1869, when they were removed to Horsham. On February 20th, 1874, the two Battalions were consolidated, and the head quarters have since been at Worthing. On February 7th, 1880, the existing Corps were formed into one Regiment, and that in East Grinstead became "C" Company of the 2nd Sussex Rifle Volunteers, afterwards the 2nd V.B. of the Royal Sussex Regiment. The Company wore the grey uniform until March, 1880, when the colour was changed to scarlet, the present drab uniforms being first worn in the spring of 1903.

The Boer War which broke out in 1899 gave the Volunteers their first chance to engage in active fighting. The East Grinstead men were possessed of a good deal of that spirit which animated the members of the North Pevensey Legion a century before and several members of "C" Company were among the first to offer their services. The contingent, consisting of 116 officers and men, under the command of the late Major Sir Walter Barttelot, sailed for South Africa on March 10th, 1900, and two months later a further draft of 21 was sent out. The Company embarked for home on May 15th, 1901, having seen some severe fighting, and leaving 16 of their number, including Private Caldwell, of the East Grinstead Company, buried beneath the African veldt. Meanwhile steps had been taken to form a second Active Service Company, and on April 27th, 1901, Lieut. S. W. P. Beale, of the East Grinstead Company, and who was given the temporary rank of Captain, sailed in command of 115 officers and men. They remained in South Africa 12 months. A third contingent was sent out on April 17th, 1902, but the war was over before it reached the scene of actual fighting, and this third Company returned immediately.

The following is a complete list of the officers who have commanded the East Grinstead Company :—

Capt. A. R. Margary, of Chartham, Feb. 9th, 1860, to May 4th, 1861. Capt. Margary was formerly in the 54th Foot and was made an honorary major in the Army on retirement.

Capt. Grenville Granville Wells, of Ashdown House, May 4th, 1861, to June 27th, 1863. This officer joined the Corps as a Lieutenant on Oct. 3rd, 1860.

Capt. W. A. Pearless, June 27th, 1863, to Feb. 16th, 1866. Mr. William Austen Pearless, a member of the well-known firm of local solicitors, joined as an Ensign on May 4th, 1861, and got his Lieutenancy on April 18th, 1863. On Feb. 16th, 1866, he resigned the captaincy and was made Honorary Assist. Quarter-Master of the Regiment. He rejoined the East Grinstead Corps on March 7th, 1871, and for a second time became Captain, commanding the Company until June 28th, 1885, when he died at Uplands, while his men were encamped at Arundel Park. He had been made an Honorary Major on Nov. 23rd, 1881.

Capt. F. S. Blunt, of Crabbett, Feb. 16th, 1866, to March 7th, 1871.

Major E. Henty, of Crawley, from the autumn of 1885, to Dec. 9th, 1893. This officer also served in the Cuckfield and Arundel Companies. He holds the Volunteers Officers' decoration for 20 years' service.

Capt. J. S. Oxley, of Fen Place, Dec. 9th, 1893, to Aug. 8th, 1902. Mr. Oxley joined the Company as 2nd Lieutenant on June 25th, 1887. He was made Lieutenant on Jan. 26th, 1889; Captain on Feb. 10th, 1894; and Honorary Major on Nov. 10th, 1897. He was first appointed to the Staff of the Battalion on Dec. 6th, 1890, as Instructor of Musketry. He was formerly a Captain in the 1st V.B. Royal Fusiliers and since 1901 has been A.D.C. to the Brigadier commanding the Sussex and Kent Volunteer Infantry Brigade. On Aug. 9th, 1902, he was on duty as a Gold Staff Officer at the King's Coronation in Westminster Abbey and received the Coronation medal. As a long range shot Major Oxley has had few superiors. He has often been included in the English team for the Elcho Shield and has won many valuable prizes at Wimbledon and Bisley.

Capt. S. W. P. Beale, of Standen, took command Aug. 8th 1902. He joined the Corps on April 28th, 1887, as 2nd Lieutenant; became Lieutenant on March 15th, 1899; was made an Honorary Captain in the Army on July 26th, 1902, and Captain of "C" Company on Sept. 27th of the same year. He commanded the second Active Service Company sent out to South Africa from Sussex, and served in the Boer War from April, 1901, to June, 1902. He acted as Intelligence Officer to Lieut.-Col. Du Moulin's and Major Gilbert's column from Aug., 1901, to March, 1902. He wears the Queen's medal, with clasps for Cape Colony and Orange Free State.

Since the establishment of the Corps the following have also held commissions :

Arthur Charles Ramsden, Lieutenant from Feb. 20th, 1860, to Oct. 3rd, 1860.

William Alston Head, of High Street, now of Domons, East Grinstead, joined as Ensign Feb. 20th, 1860, made Lieutenant May 4th, 1861; resigned April 18th, 1863; made Hon. Assist. Quarter-Master in the Battalion March 7th, 1871, resigned April 24th, 1880.

John Whyte, Lingfield Lodge, East Grinstead, Hon. Assist. Surgeon from May 18th, 1860, to Dec. 19th, 1864.

Rev. Edward Polehampton, Rector of Hartfield, Hon. Chaplain from July 11th, 1861, to July 24th, 1880.

John Cuthbert Stenning, Steel Cross, Tunbridge Wells, Ensign April 18th, 1863; Lieutenant June 27th, 1863; resigned Sept. 6th, 1867.

William Rudge, Ensign from June 27th, 1863, to December 19th, 1864.

James Richardson Pearless, of The Hermitage, now of Sackville Cottage, East Grinstead, joined the Corps on its formation; made Ensign Dec. 19th, 1864; Lieutenant March 7th, 1871; Hon. Capt. on his resignation Feb. 7th, 1891. Received a public presentation on completing 30 years' service Feb. 22nd, 1890, and Volunteer Officers' Decoration in July, 1892.

Robert Turner Head, High Street, East Grinstead, Hon. Assist. Surgeon from Dec. 19th, 1864, to Dec. 22nd, 1875; Assist. Surgeon to the Regiment Dec. 21st, 1872; Surgeon Oct. 1st, 1877; resigned Jan. 5th, 1881.

William Vicesimus Knox Stenning, Halsford, East Grinstead, Ensign March 7th, 1871; Lieutenant June 1st, 1873; resigned July 7th, 1880. Mr. Stenning was a renowned county shot and brought several valuable prizes to East Grinstead.

Charles Edward Collins, Redstede, East Grinstead, Assist. Surgeon December 22nd, 1875; Surgeon Oct. 1st, 1877; Staff Surgeon Feb. 7th, 1880; Surgeon-Major Aug. 29th, 1891; resigned Feb. 10th, 1894. Mr. Collins has been a well-known shot at Wimbledon, where he won many valuable prizes, including the Wimbledon Cup in 1886.

Evelyn Alston Head, of Westfields, now of Daledene, East Grinstead, 2nd Lieutenant May 18th, 1881; Lieutenant July 1st, 1881; resigned Nov. 17th, 1883.

Reginald Wilson Pearless, of The Hermitage, now of Green Hedges, East Grinstead, Lieutenant from Oct. 24th, 1885, to March 26th, 1887.

John Ashburner Nix, Tilgate, Crawley, 2nd Lieutenant Nov. 2nd, 1889; Lieutenant June 13th, 1891; made Captain and posted to the command of the Worthing Company, March 24th, 1897.

John H. Luscombe, Hayheath, Worth, 2nd Lieutenant April 28th, 1897; Lieutenant June 3rd, 1899; resigned Aug. 11th, 1902, and joined the Royal Garrison Regiment.

Ernest Gresham Moore, High-street, East Grinstead, Lieutenant since Feb. 27th, 1901 ; made Captain March, 1905, and granted at the same time the honorary rank of Major. Is Commanding Officer of the Cyclist Company of the Battalion. Was formerly a Captain in the 1st Notts (Robin Hood) R.V.

The following have held office as Sergeant-Instructors :

Sergt. Smith, Royal Sussex Militia. He did not nominally rank as Sergeant-Instructor, but did excellent work in getting the Corps into shape.

Sergt. Edward Brind, 21st Scots Fusiliers, died in 1870.

Sergt. Hand, 60th Rifles.

Sergt. J. C. Raw, 100th Foot, from Nov. 15th, 1878, to Aug. 3rd, 1886.

Sergt. James Palmer, Royal Sussex Regiment, Sept. 15th, 1886, to April 15th, 1897.

Col.-Sergt. H. W. Saynor, Royal Sussex Regiment, April 1st, 1897, to Jan., 1905.

Col.-Sergt. H. W. Gallop for two months in 1905.

Col.-Sergt. A. Nye, Royal Sussex Regiment, appointed July, 1905.

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## SOME LOCAL WORTHIES.

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### CHAPTER XIV.

THE lives of many local worthies have already been dealt with, but there are others who also merit mention.

#### JOHN ROWE.

John Rowe, a most able lawyer and antiquary, described by one writer as "The Father of Sussex Archæology," came, on the maternal side, from an old East Grinstead family. His father was John Rowe, of Tonbridge, and his mother was the daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Drew, of East Grinstead. He was born in 1560 and became principal of Clifford's Inn. He died on November 27th, 1639, and was buried at St. Anne's, Lewes. For a quarter of a century he was Steward to Lord Abergavenny, and while so acting made a vast collection of manuscripts relating to the manorial history of Sussex, and a copy of this, ornamented with the arms of the owners of the Manors, was for a long time kept at the Hermitage, East Grinstead, while Mr. Wakeham and his widow resided there. It is not known where these documents now are, but a duplicate is preserved in the British Museum. His daughter Anne married Edward Raynes, of Lewes and Conyboro', which marriage resulted in an only daughter, Susanna, who became the wife, on August 15th, 1672, of Thomas Medley, of Buxted, ancestor, through female lines, of the present Earl of Liverpool.

#### BISHOP KIDDER.

Richard Kidder, afterwards a distinguished Bishop, was born at East Grinstead and christened in the Parish Church on February 9th, 1633-4. The family of Kidder came from Maresfield, but the future Bishop's direct



ancestors established themselves in East Grinstead prior to 1571. They were originally bailiffs under the Duchy of Lancaster for part of Ashdown Forest. Richard Kidder's father was William Kidder and his mother's maiden name was Wickenden. The father was a mercer, but possibly fell on hard times, for both he and his wife died while inmates of Sackville College. Richard was the youngest but one of a family of nine, and in his early days was taught to read by a lady living in the neighbourhood. He made such good progress that he was sent to a grammar school carried on by Reyner Herman, who was Warden of Sackville College from 1646 to 1656. At the age of 15 he was so far advanced that he was fitted for a University, but as his relatives did not possess the means to enable them to continue his education he was sent to Sevenoaks to learn the business of an apothecary. Some friends, however, took pity on the lad and raised enough money to send him to Cambridge. Here he made good use of his time and in 1659 was presented to the living of Standground, Hunts. After the Restoration of 1662 he declined to subscribe to the revised liturgy, so was one of the 2,000 clergy ejected from their benefices on that account. At length the Earl of Essex offered him the living of Raine, near Braintree, and Kidder lived there for 10 years in great discomfort. Other incumbencies followed and on the accession of William and Mary he was made Dean of Peterborough and one of the King's Chaplains, and the degree of D.D. was conferred on him in the King's presence. Finally he was consecrated Bishop of Bath and Wells on August 30th, 1691, and controlled this diocese with much zeal and ability until his awful death during the night of November 26-27th, 1703. That night a storm of almost unparalleled fury passed over England. It did enormous damage in East Grinstead and also swept down a stack of chimneys in the episcopal palace at Wells, and the good Bishop and his wife were killed as they slept and both buried in the ruins.

## SPENCER PERCEVAL.

The Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, a son of the Earl of Egmont, and the Prime Minister who was shot in the lobby of the House of Commons in 1812, after holding his high position for nearly two and a half years, by a man named Bellingham, has quite an accidental, but romantic, connection with East Grinstead. In 1787 the Hon. Chas. Geo. Perceval, his eldest brother, married the eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Spencer Wilson, Bart., an ancestor of the well-known family still occupying Searles at Fletching. His brother, the Hon. Spencer, also became attached to one of the sisters, Miss Jane Wilson, a beautiful girl, but as he was then only a briefless barrister his suit was not encouraged by her parents. When Miss Wilson came of age the affection was as strong as ever, so her father apparently decided to give way, but not publicly. He accordingly discreetly remained ignorant while his daughter was sent to East Grinstead on a visit to Mr. Thomas Wakeham, an attorney in this town and estate agent for the Wilson family, then living at the Hermitage. Her lover followed her and on August 10th, 1790, the bride being dressed in her riding habit, they were married here, report commonly saying, in the ruins of the church which had been but recently destroyed. This is quite possible, as the main walls had been rebuilt in the preceding year. But the idea is not favoured by the family, for Sir Spencer Walpole, writing in 1876 to the Rev. D. Y. Blakiston, says:—

I understand from Mr. Perceval's relatives that the wedding did not take place in East Grinstead Church, but in a blacksmith's shed where service used to be done at the time. Miss Wilson was staying for the occasion at Mr. Wakeham's (The Hermitage), who, it is believed, was Sir Thomas Wilson's agent. So far as I know Mr. Perceval did not afterwards visit East Grinstead.

According to Cooke's "Topographical Description of Sussex," services were held, while the church was in ruins, in Sackville College Chapel.

The following is a copy of the entry in the parish register:—

1790. The Honorable Spencer Perceval, of Lincoln's Inn, in the County of Middlesex, Batchelor, and Jane Wilson, of this parish, spinster, married in this church by licence this tenth day of August in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety by me Chars. Whitehead, Vicar.

Witnesses.

Dorothy Wakeham  
T. Wakeham

Spencer Perceval  
Jane Wilson

The marriage was a happy one and the union was blessed by a family of twelve children. Two days after the assassination Parliament voted a pension of £2,000 a year to Mrs. Perceval and the sum of £50,000 to be invested for the benefit of her large family, some of whom, living to extreme old age at Ealing and elsewhere, have only quite recently died.

### THE REV. C. J. PATERSON.

The Rev. Charles John Paterson was a Curate of East Grinstead who gained considerable fame beyond this town, and an interesting account of his life was afterwards written by Archdeacon Hoare, of Winchester. He was born on March 11th, 1800, and educated at Putney, under Dr. Carmalt. His widowed mother removed to Brighton as soon as he left school, and here, while still a lad, he devoted himself to the study of the mineral, animal and fossil kingdoms. He formed one of the most valuable collections of Sussex shells and insects ever got together. He went to Cambridge when 19 years of age and was ordained at Easter, 1824, being immediately appointed to the curacy of East Grinstead, under the Rev. Richard Taylor, taking up work principally in the Forest Row district. He became "admired, applauded, courted and engaged in most of the circles of general society in the neighbourhood." From the proceeds of a purse presented to him for extra voluntary work undertaken while in East Grinstead, he provided a service of sacramental plate and a statuary marble font, executed with much taste under his own immediate order. Finally his outspoken sermons lost him many of

his friends, and in 1826 he resigned and went to Haslemere, in Surrey. His farewell sermon here was preached on July 4th, 1826, and a great part of the congregation were moved to tears and left the church, so he himself writes, "as returning from a funeral." A year later very strenuous efforts were made by Lord Colchester and others to get him back to East Grinstead, and though they failed in this they got him appointed on August 29th, 1827, to the living of West Hoathly. Here he accomplished a remarkable work, and his touching, eloquent sermons, which changed the character of the whole neighbourhood, were published in 1838. It was while here, on November 10th, 1836, that he married Miss Cordelia Cranston, third daughter of Mr. Edward Cranston, of East Court, East Grinstead, but their happy married life was of very brief duration, for Mr. Paterson died on January 22nd in the following year, having won a reputation which few men of 36 are able to enjoy. His widow lived until November 13th, 1847, and according to the diary of one who knew her well, "exhibited a decision of character and devotedness rarely exceeded in the circle in which she moved." Her only daughter married the Rev. G. H. Marriott, the present owner of part of the Cranston Estate, formerly comprised in the East Court Estate, which, before its partition, consisted of about 900 acres round the present house.

### THE REV. F. MILLS.

An extremely interesting career was that of the Rev. F. Mills, who was born at East Grinstead of very poor parents, and gained what little education he had at Zion Chapel School. He was a wild youth, got into trouble and spent a month in Lewes Prison. He afterwards enlisted as a soldier and was sent out to Jamaica. In time he was invalided home and discharged from the Army. By this date he had entirely changed his mode of life and became a city missionary and lay preacher. In due course he was ordained and obtained a Church of England curacy in the North of England. About

1860 he was presented to the living of Lindfield, near Hayward's Heath. Coming back so near his home proved a serious error. Stories of his past career were spread about, the gentry ignored him and steps were taken to have him removed, but he remained in the place five years, lived down all calumny and made many friends. He died on August 9th, 1867.

### DR. EPPS.

Dr. John Epps was a famous writer and social reformer. He published some two dozen botanical and medical works and classical translations. He was born at Blackheath on February 15th, 1805. The family, which traced its origin in this country from a Frenchman who came back with Charles II. at the Restoration, afterwards removed to Sevenoaks, and in due course young Epps was apprenticed to Mr. Durie, a London surgeon. He soon commenced to write poetry and published a tragedy dealing with the life of John the Baptist, while still a lad. After a course of study at Edinburgh he commenced to practice in London in 1827, and while there married Miss Ellen Elliott on August 24th, 1831. He started the Medical Reform Association and was one of the founders of the Homœopathic Society. He lectured all over the country on many subjects, being particularly active in urging the abolition of capital punishment and church rates. He lived for a time at Warlingham, and after a visit to Hastings was driving back through Ashurst Wood when he saw a bill announcing a small property for sale. He liked the situation of the land, so he drove on to East Grinstead, called on the late Mr. Pearless, whom he then met for the first time, and told him to go and buy the place. The deal was carried through and the transaction led to a sincere and lasting friendship between Mr. Epps and Mr. Pearless. He afterwards bought more land adjoining and built The Yews, since enlarged and re-named Yewhurst. He permanently took up his residence there on April 30th, 1861, and remained for eight years, going back to

London early in 1869, where he died on February 12th of that year. He had been invited to contest Northampton for Parliament, but he preferred to work outside Westminster, and became very intimate with all the great Radical leaders, the Chartists, the Cobdenites and the Friends of Italy, being on the Council of the latter Society. As a speaker and writer he won a world-wide reputation. By reason of his connection with Epps's cocoa, Yewhurst was at one time locally known as Cocoa Castle.

### THOMAS CRAMP.

Mr. Thomas Cramp, the founder of the Temperance cause in East Grinstead, was born at Lewes, where his father was a veterinary surgeon, on April 21st, 1810. He spent his boyhood at Bexhill and came to East Grinstead as an apprentice to Mr. Palmer, the bookseller, stationer and "Royal Quill Pen Manufacturer." He married Miss Jane Pretty, the daughter of a Wesleyan minister, on June 25th, 1841. He had begun his total abstinence practice exactly four years earlier — total abstinence from tea and coffee as well as alcoholic liquors, water being his only beverage. The Society he started met with most violent opposition. Its members were stoned in the public streets; Mr. Cramp was suspended from Zion Church and removed from his post of Superintendent of the Sunday School; and his pastor preached a public sermon strongly condemning the new-fangled craze. The chapel was crowded and at its close an adjournment was made to one of the local inns and a dozen of wine voted the preacher for his excellent discourse. But he declined the gift. It took many a long day to live down the opposition, and it was not until August 25th, 1845, some eight years later, that the use of the same chapel was first granted for a temperance meeting. But the cause grew and in due course East Grinstead boasted of one of the strongest temperance societies in the county. In 1887 Mr. Cramp's temperance jubilee was publicly celebrated, and on April 21st, 1890, a public meeting was held to congratulate him on attaining

his 80th birthday. He lived to celebrate one more, passing away on August 18th, 1891. The clock in front of the Literary Institute was afterwards erected to perpetuate his memory.

Mr. Cramp was a useful public man. For over 35 years he was High Bailiff of the County Court, now an obsolete office; he founded the Penny Bank in East Grinstead; he was one of the founders and for 25 years Secretary of the first Gas Company; and he served most of the parochial offices. For a long term of years he kept a brief diary, which now fills five fairly large volumes. By kind permission of his son, Mr. Jury Cramp, of Horsham, the following interesting extracts are made:—

1842, June 22nd. Mr. Edwards was buried. He was carried to church by dissenters, who were detained with the mourners in the church for almost an hour, the Vicar (Rev. C. Nevill) being at a cricket match and forgetting the funeral.

1842, June 25th. The anniversary of Thomas and Jane Cramp's wedding day. Their wedding was celebrated on the teetotal principle; they have neither tasted, given nor kept in the house any intoxicating drinks throughout the year; they have been preserved in health—no doctor has been near; in peace—no quarrel has arisen; in comfort—no want has been unsupplied.

1842, Aug. 22nd. A cricket match with East Grinstead and Lingfield in the Chequer Mead. A great number of persons present. At about 3 o'clock a heavy thunderstorm stopped the play. They are now (10 p.m.) singing and rioting at the Crown. Such are the usual endings of cricket matches. They have led many a young man astray and brought him to ruin.

1842, Sept. 17th. Walked to Edenbridge Station and rode per railway to London. This mode of travelling is superior to any other. There is no stopping at public-houses—no fees to coachmen and guards—no suffering and cruelty to the poor horses—but there is regularity, speed, accommodation, civility and cheapness, and with at least an equal degree of safety.

1844, Aug. 14th. Miss C. Cranston was this day married to Col. Leslie. In consequence of the Vicar's Puseyite views and practices the parties were forced, though very reluctantly, to have the marriage performed at Lingfield Church.

1844, Nov. 15th. Lord Ellenborough passed through the town on his way to Kidbrooke. An arch of evergreens made in honour to him, music played and bells rang also, but all was got up by a publican, who reaped the principal benefit, for the rioters spent the evening and part of the night at his house.

1845, Mar. 23rd. Mary Ann Meads, a blind young woman, was interred in the churchyard without the tolling of the bell or the usual ceremony, the Vicar refusing it in consequence of the young woman never having been baptised.

1847, Mar. 24th. In consequence of the famine in Ireland and some parts of Scotland a general fast has been appointed for this day by the Government. The shops were generally closed and labour, for the most part, suspended. Service twice at church, morning attendance large. The Dissenters took no account of the day.

1849, Feb. 27th. About 25 teams competed in a ploughing match on the Moats and Blackwell Farms.

1849, June 22nd. A company of players have hired the Court House for six weeks. They gave their first performance this evening. It is earnestly hoped that the friends of religion and morality will make some decisive effort to counteract the evil tendency of this dangerous amusement.

1849, July 5th. I enclosed a tract on the immoral and anti-Christian tendency of the Theatre to all the inhabitants of the town.

1849, July 6th. The sending round of the tracts has caused a ferment. Many persons, out of opposition, determined to go to the play. The room was crowded and the Vicar informed me he had heard that the performers passed a vote of thanks to me.

1849, July 9th. Scarcely 20 people at the play to-night.

1849, July 12th. A large attendance of the gentry at the play.

1855, June 5th. Took a debtor to Lewes Prison. By the prisoner's desire I walked all the way through Birch Grove, Sheffield Park and Newick. From Lewes I walked to Brighton, took train to Three Bridges and walked home. I walked about 35 miles and not over tired.

1858, Jan. 2nd. An unusually mild season. Ripe strawberries and raspberries have been gathered in several places.

1859, Sept. 6th. Walked to Cowden and summoned a young gentleman staying at the Rectory. Mr. Harvey, the Rector, invited me into the breakfast room and bade me partake. There was grouse, partridges, tongue, honey, &c., &c. What renders this invitation remarkable on the part of the Rector is, I was dressed in a round frock, came on anything but an agreeable errand and was well known to the Rector as a decided Nonconformist. Mrs. Harvey was equally pleasant and hospitable.

1860, July 11th. Lord De la Warr's rent audit at the Crown. I did not go, thinking such gatherings—that is, the drinking part of them—great evils.

1860, Oct. 23rd. A most unusual wet summer. There appears to have been nothing approaching it for wetness for nearly 50 years. Parties returned from hop-picking and then went to reaping and mowing again.

1860, Nov. 24th. Robert Payne died. Himself, his grandfather and great-grandfather have all filled the office of sexton.



1861, May 29th. Mr. Palmer was buried to-day in the family vault. A legacy of £100 was left me by my old master.

1861, Nov. 28th. Took a debtor to Lewes Prison. He walked four miles and brought me a rabbit by 6.30 a.m. It is not common to find prisoners so obliging. I walked round the town of Lewes with him before I lodged him in prison.

1862, June 10th. Mr. John Smith died. Having been auctioneer, banker, &c., for so many years he will be missed. He had obtained a respectable standing, being a man of integrity and had acquired wealth.

1862, Aug. 14th. Rev. J. H. Bray died this evening. He has been curate here 11 months. His simple, direct and earnest preaching of the Gospel, coupled with a consistent life, secured the approval and attachment of the parishioners generally, including the Dissenters.

1864, May 31st. Went to Felbridge Park and seized a horse for a heriot, in consequence of Mr. Gatty's death.

1867, May 22nd. Snow storms—not a stray flake or two, but actually fierce and plentiful falls of snow, covering the house-tops. It is the Derby day.

1867, May 24th. Ice this morning half an inch thick.

1868, Feb. 4th. Mr. John Stenning died at Brighton, aged 93. A remarkable instance of what industry and sobriety, when blessed by God, will do.

1868, Aug. 12th. The Judge has an attack of gout. Drinkers have not always settled their wine account when they pay their wine merchant.

1870, June 8th. I now cease my connection with Zion Sunday School, after about 38 years' close attachment and steady attention to it. I have not had fair play from the ruling deacons and shall join the new Moat School, where I anticipate a wider and fairer course of action.

1871, Feb. 6th. Mr. Murphy lectured on The Confessional. I doubt whether the evil is not more likely to predominate than the good from such revelations.

1872, March 14th. Wound up accounts of Thanksgiving festivities for recovery of Prince of Wales. Besides their subscriptions each member of the Committee had to pay 8s. to make fund balance.

1872, Dec. 11th. Fair day. In consequence of the liquor shops being compelled to close at 11, there were but few cases of rioting.

1873, Feb. 15th. Coal is now 50s. a ton.

1874, Jan. 2nd. Mr. Wm. Stenning died; a gentleman highly respected by all classes and who, by a generous and consistent life, showed that he was a doer as well as a hearer of Christ's words.

1875, August 30th. Mr. Pearless was buried to-day. There was a marked absence of the too frequent funeral trappings, no hat-bands, no scarves, no feathers, no mutes, no coaches, mourners walked behind an unadorned hearse.

1877, Sept. 24th. Mr. T. R. Burt, solicitor, died. He was the oldest professional. He was practising and living where he died when I came to East Grinstead in 1825.

1877, Dec. 13th. Fat Stock Show—a large display. I doubt the rightness of making the poor creatures so helplessly fat. I think the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals should look into the matter.

1881, Oct. 14th. Heavy gale; 12 large elms blown down in Chequer Mead and near there.

1881, Oct. 23rd. I resigned my offices as Treasurer and Superintendent of the Moat Sunday School. Nearly all the teachers resign also.

1884, July 25th. Attended a Conservative meeting at the Crown Assembly Room. I moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman and commended the plain and gentlemanly manner the speakers stated their views, although I was not able to endorse them.

1885, May 5th. To the Exhibition. Just as we entered there was a little bustle, when lo! the Queen, having hold of the Prince of Wales's arm, was just coming out. We were almost touching her. I had not seen her for 53 years. She was a little 12-year-old girl then, now a bulky, serious-looking old lady.

1891, Feb. 9th. A beershop closed at Crowborough Town by the East Grinstead Magistrates. Hoo-rah!!

1891, March 3rd. Not well enough to attend County Court. Only the second time absent during the 36 years I have been High Bailiff. Judge Martineau called on me and very kindly chatted for a while.

1891, April 17th. First visitor to-day, a retired brewer (Mr. Absalom); second, a fierce innkeeper and violent opponent of our temperance work (Mr. Tracy). Both stayed awhile and chatted very friendly.

1891, June 22nd. The 28th temperance excursion. I never missed one before.

With this very appropriate entry the diary closes. Two months later the good old gentleman passed away.

### MRS. NEIGHBOUR.

Although East Grinstead is located in one of the healthiest parts of this favoured county it cannot boast of a long list of centenarians to hold up as witnesses to its health giving properties. Many residents have closely approached five score years, but history records only one instance of an individual who passed that number. In an old Family Bible the following was the quaint record:—

Mary Taylor Wos Bornd December 5 5 minets Be for to in mornen 1796.

On December 5th, 1896, I visited her—a pleasant faced, but feeble old lady—and got from her some very interesting particulars of her life. Her father was James Taylor, who was for many years tenant of the still existing blacksmith's forge at Lingfield, where the old lady in question first saw the light. He committed suicide by hanging himself when his daughter Mary was but four years of age. Mary Taylor first married a Mr. Baker, a carpenter, and gave birth to her first child on November 16th, 1814, before she was 18 years of age. Her second husband was John Neighbour, a tanner, who worked first at Lingfield and then at Ashurst Wood. By her first husband she had four children, not one of whom survived her, and by her second husband seven children. The chief branches of the family are now the Huggetts, of East Grinstead, holding responsible and honoured positions, one the Clerk to the Guardians, another the Assistant Overseer and Rate Collector, and a third the Parish Sexton and Cemetery Caretaker, and the Inglefields, tradesmen of Westerham and Limpsfield. When she was 100 years old her descendants numbered 303, namely, 11 children, 86 grandchildren, 172 great grandchildren, and 34 great great grandchildren, of whom, at that time, about 200 were living. Before she died, on September 5th, 1897, in her 101st year, the number had been still further increased. Mrs. Neighbour was over 90 before she gave up active work. She used to walk into East Grinstead daily from Ashurst Wood to work as an upholsteress and was very clever indeed at the trade.

#### SIR EDWARD BLOUNT.

Sir Edward Blount was born on March 14th, 1809, at Bellamour, near Rugeley, Stafford. He was the second son of Mr. Edward Blount, M.P., at one time Member for Steyning in this county, by Frances, daughter of Mr. Francis Wright, of Fitzwalters, Essex. The family trace their origin to the Le Blounds, Counts of Guisnes, in Picardy, the head of whose family accompanied William I. when the Conqueror invaded these islands.

One of them is said to have been Commander of the ships of war, and another brother General of the Army. Many members of the family were knights, but the first baronet, Walter, was created by Charles I. in 1642. Sir Edward's grandfather was the sixth baronet of this creation. The family has always remained staunch to the Roman Catholic Church and Sir Edward fully maintained the faith of his fathers.

Sir Edward's education was commenced at Rugeley Grammar School and continued at St. Mary's College, Oscott. He first began work in the London office of the Provincial Bank of Ireland, but soon gave this up and became an *attaché* at the Home Office, being afterwards appointed to a like position at the British Embassy in Paris. This was when he was 20 years of age. After a time he was transferred to the Consulate at Rome. He went back to Paris in 1831, where he joined the banking house of Callaghan & Company. He soon launched out on his own account, and, with his father's help, founded the bank of Edward Blount, Père et Fils. It was about this time that he married the beautiful Miss Gertrude Frances Jerminham, and their happy union lasted only nine days short of 63 years, Lady Blount dying at Imberhorne on November 9th, 1897. In due course the Paris banking house became that of Charles Laffitte, Blount & Company, and the partnership lasted until the Revolution of 1848, when the bank was ruined, but young Blount afterwards paid all his creditors in full. Four years later, mainly by the help of the late Mr. Brassey, he re-established himself as a banker under the style of Edward Blount & Company. This bank lasted until after the Revolution of 1872, when it was wound up and the business transferred to the Société Générale of Paris, of which Mr. Blount became President, holding the position until he resigned, much against the wish of his colleagues, on June 11th, 1901.

Sir Edward was the founder of railway enterprise in France and practically financed the Western Railway Company, of which he was chairman for 30 years, being then ousted from the position by the demands of the

French Government, who professed to see danger in an Englishman having too intimate an acquaintance with their army mobilisation arrangements.

His connection with the political history of France was an intimate one. He had the honour to be the personal friend of its monarchs and leading statesmen; he was on intimate terms also with Kings and Queens in other countries, and was always proud of the great consideration ever shown him by the late Queen Victoria, who, had she had her own way, would have raised him to the Peerage. With the Pontiffs of Rome his connection had been very intimate, for he was long the banker of the Papal Government, and after the annexation of the Papal States to the kingdom of Italy he arranged the transfer of the financial liabilities and the conversion of the Papal debt.

It was Mr. Blount's self-sacrificing, noble conduct during the siege of Paris in 1870-1 that will for ever endear his name to the English people. When nearly all the wealthy foreigners fled, he remained, making his starving compatriots, who were unable to leave the city, his chief care. On January 24th, 1871, he was appointed British Consul and his whole conduct of difficult affairs was such that Lord Malmesbury, speaking of him in the House of Lords, said his name would be "considered noble as long as the history of the siege is recorded." He had 2,200 English poor on his hands and spent an enormous sum out of his own purse in relief; indeed, he and Mr. Wallace and Dr. Herbert distributed £40,000 in all, and the total returned to Mr. Blount by the British Government was only £1,000.

Mr. Blount remained officially in charge of the British Embassy until the end of March, 1871, when he left for London. In recognition of his services Mr. Blount was made a Companion of the Bath and on June 2nd, 1888, was promoted to the rank of K.C.B., being at that time President of the British Chamber of Commerce, of which he was one of the founders.

His connection with the great financial houses of the world was an important one. Not only was he at the

head of the Société Générale, but he was also a director of the General Credit and Finance Company of Lothbury, of the Union Discount Company and of the London Joint Stock Bank.

Honours had naturally been showered on him from all sides. In addition to his English knighthood he was a Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur and Commander of the Orders of Pius IX., of Isabella of Spain and of the Crown of Italy, and also held the Grand Cross of Osmanli, Turkey.

In his younger days Sir Edward was a keen sportsman. He was a partner in Count Lagrange's racing stable, and as such had the honour of sharing in the carrying off of many of the chief prizes of the Turf, including the English Derby, which their horse, Gladiateur, won in 1865. One of his chief hobbies used to be coaching, and long after he was 80 he used to handle his four-in-hand along the tortuous roads and hills around East Grinstead with a skill which many a young whip might envy. He died at Imberhorne on March 15th, 1905, aged 96, and was succeeded in the ownership of the estate by his grandson, Mr. Edward C. Blount, J.P.

### JOHN PAYNE, SHERIFF OF SUSSEX.

In the 14th Vol. of the Sussex Archaeological Society's Collections, in an article on Ashdown Forest, by the Rev. Edward Turner, appears mention of a John Payne, of Plawhatch, and the writer proceeds:—

The old Payne here alluded to was probably the Patriarch of the ancient family of Payne long resident at Legge's Heath, in East Grinstead, and a Master of the Forest. A descendant of his was Sheriff of Sussex in 1738, of whom it is currently reported that during the year he served the office he never went to church, or in any way appeared in public, except in full dress, with a cocked hat on his head, and a sword by his side, and whenever he went to market or a meeting of any kind at East Grinstead, he had, in addition, his State saddle, saddle cloth and holster furnished with a pair of richly silver-chased pistols. When questioned on the subject, his reply was that in his opinion the dignity of the office required it. The last of the family of the direct line died in Maresfield at an advanced age and in very

reduced circumstances, about six years ago (1856). In his cottage I have often seen the saddle cloth, richly embroidered with gold, the pistols, the sword and the spurs, which his father used as Sheriff, and which the son greatly valued as testifying to the quondam greatness of the family. After his death they were all sold to a broker for a few shillings.

The above notice, in which the date was incorrectly given as 1768, in conjunction with his long strain of East Grinstead blood, would seem to entitle the subject of it to a place among our local worthies. John Payne, mentioned above as Sheriff of Sussex in 1738, was of Legsheath Farm, near Plawhatch, and one of the tribe of Paynes living in our parish, but, for many generations before his day, of a family quite distinct from the "Paynes of the towne," to whom frequent reference has been made in the course of this work; for we can trace his ancestry back for at least five generations with certainty to John Payne, of Monkshill, yeoman, who was buried at East Grinstead in 1597, probably the above mentioned Patriarch and the same person as John Payne, of Plawhatch, mentioned in our Parish Registers as alive in 1562, and not improbably at that date recognised as a connection by his better known namesakes "of the town;" but the fact remains that John Payne, of Legsheath, was the descendant of a long line of Paynes who more than 350 years ago began to settle themselves in the small farms on the extreme south border of our large parish and on the verge of Ashdown Forest; such farms were Plawhatch, Legsheath, Monkshill, Mawles, Walesbeech and, later, Charlwoods, and all owned by some member of the family of what we may call the Paynes of Legsheath, though they seem to have been earlier known as the Paynes of Plawhatch, a name probably derived from the Plawe family, one of whom, viz., John Plawe, held seven acres called Twyforde, in 1560.

In 1560 Leggesheath was held of Duddleswell Manor by Rowland Deane, and consisted of 10 acres of assart land, *i.e.*, cleared of forest or heath, lying in the parish of East Grinstead, to the pale of the Forest towards the south, to the lands of Lord Abergavenny called

Hownynggrove towards the north, to the lands of Richard Infelde called the Plawe towards the west, and to the lands of Umphreyes called Mawles towards the east, but by degrees, before 1600 and in the decade succeeding it, not only Legsheath and Monkshill, but also Maules and Walesbeech Farms had come under the rule of the Paynes, and so continued down to the time of the subject of this notice and after him to about 1825.

A bird's-eye view of John Payne's ancestry may be given as follows, and its connection with farms in the parish gives it special interest:—

JOHN PAYNE, of *Monkshill*, Yeoman (probably of Plawhatch in 1562), owned freehold lands called Malls; buried at East Grinstead as John Payne, senr., of Monkhill, in 1597.

JOHN PAYNE, of *Maules*, Yeoman, owned 7 acres at Buncegrove, called Baches, Legsheath and Dockets; died 1624.

WILLIAM PAYNE, of *Walesbeech*, Yeoman, owned Legsheath, Maules, Dockets; buried at East Grinstead as William Paine, of Walesbeech, 1657.

WILLIAM PAYNE, of *Maules*, Yeoman (5th son), owned Legsheath and Monkshill; died 1658; by his will "to be buried at East Grinstead."

MR. WILLIAM PAYNE, of *Legsheath*, owned Velvicks; his brothers, Edward and Robert, lived at Maules and Monkshill; buried at East Grinstead as Mr. Wm. Payne, of Legsheath, 1727.

JOHN PAYNE, of *Legsheath*, Esqre., owned Maules, while his cousin, Edward, owned Monkshill; Sheriff of Sussex 1738; buried at East Grinstead as "John Payne, Esq.," 1760.

So much for his ancestry, which shows him to have been a true son of our parochial soil and to have made strides forward, socially and financially, since his grandfather, Wm. Payne, of Maules, yeoman, in an interesting will, dated 1658, bequeathed

Unto Susan my nowe wife seaven fields or severall closes and one coppice wood next adjoining to my customary tenement or house comonly called Munkshill with the orchard and garden plott thereunto belonging, conteyning in all by estimacōn 18 acres of land more or less for and during the terme of her naturall life. And also three rooms in the said Munkshill house during her naturall life viz. the Hall, the chamber over the Hall, and the upper chamber over the same with egresse and regresse to and from the same and to have and take water and other convenient necessities. . . .

The testator goes on to give £150 to each of his daughters, five pair of sheets to each of his children



and Monkshill to Robert, his younger son, who also occupied Stone and Standen Farms. In such surroundings was John Payne, of Legsheath, born in 1675, and duly baptised at East Grinstead, succeeding his father at Legsheath in 1727, as we learn from the Court Rolls of Duddleswell Manor, of which Legsheath was held. In 1693 he married, at Hartfield, Bridget, daughter and co-heir of Richard Knight, Esq., sen., of Cowden, whose family had come to prosperity by virtue of the iron industry of those days. This useful marriage may account for John's somewhat sudden rise in the social scale and may also account in a measure for his little weakness for display in his official capacity of Sheriff, a position that would have, no doubt, vastly astonished his father, Wm. Payne, of Legsheath. There seems to have been no issue of this marriage when his first wife died in October, 1736, so he re-married, with no undue delay, Margaret, daughter of John Shelley, of Fen Place, Worth. As John was already 62 years of age his prompt re-marriage was probably accelerated by the meritorious desire, as strong in those days with yeoman as with peer, to leave a son to inherit the ancestral acres, however modest their extent. John's acres seem from his will to have been numerous and productive, but disappointment was his lot, for we find no issue of the second marriage beyond an only daughter, Margaret, baptised at East Grinstead in 1738 (the year of his Sherifffdom) and buried there in 1751. This accounts for his making his nephew, William Payne, son of Edward Payne, of Monkshill, his heir, and, so far as we can now ascertain, these farms remained in the hands of Mr. William Payne until about 1827, when he, or possibly his son of the same name, sold Stone Farm to Mr. R. Crawford, of Saint Hill, and it is not unusual about this date to find our local yeomen tempted by the high price of land then prevailing to part with their long cherished acres to the gentry of the class above them, with the idea of living in ease upon the proceeds of the deal. Unfortunately in too many cases the yeoman had no knowledge of

investing his money safely otherwise than in farming land, and the expulsion from the ancestral acres by the prosperous Squire only too often resulted in pauperising and extinguishing such old families as we are here speaking of. Some such disaster would seem to have overtaken the Sheriff's successors, for if any descendants of the name now exist they are not known to local annalists.

John Payne, ex-Sheriff and squire, died no doubt in his picturesque old farmhouse at Legsheath at the age of 85, and was buried in the Churchyard of East Grinstead, 13th March, 1760. Whatever his foibles, his will shows him to have been a careful man, of kindly and genial disposition, with a due allowance of family pride and other pleasant traits, nor could his worst detractor say that he was too little appreciative of the dignity to which he was called.

The following interesting extracts are from his will, dated 3rd May, 1754, and proved 2nd May, 1760:—

To Mary Head, wife of Edward Head, the interest of £100 to be put out at four per cent. for her natural life, with remainder to her daughter Mary Taylor.

To William How £50, and to Elizabeth How, and Sarah How his two sisters £30 each.

To Joseph Bridgeland son of John Bridgeland £100.

To John Showing £50.

To William Payne, son of Edward Payne of Monkshill £450 to be laid out on a mortgage upon Monkshill, The interest of which £450 I give to my cousin Edward Payne of Monkshill for his life. I also give to my cousin Edward Payne, of Monkshill his living in Legsheath, and the use of all the goods there till his son William Payne is 23 y<sup>r</sup> old.

To Robert Payne £5 p. ann. for his life, to be paid out of a ffarm called Smiths in Surrey.

To Mary Payne 40/- p. ann. for her life, to be paid out of "Smiths" aforesaid.

To Susannah Shewing £30.

To Richard Payne I give a small ffarm called "Holehouse" for his life.

To Colonel Joseph Ottaway £50.

To John Smith Esq £500.

All the residue of my estate real and personal; all my ffreehold and copyhold Lands in Sussex, Kent, and Surrey I give to my cousin William Payne son of Edward Payne, of Monkshill for his natural life, and I make him the said William Payne, son of Edward Payne,

of Monkshill, my heir after my decease—and from and after his decease I give all to his heir male—and for want of such heir I give it all to John Payne second son of Henry Payne of Worth.

I desire John Turner of Imberhorne, and Edward Jenner of East Grinstead to be trustees for the said William Payne, whom I make heir till he arrives at the age of 23 y<sup>rs</sup>, and to receive the rents, and put out money at four per cent. for the benefit of the said William Payne—and to put him to school till he is a compleat scholar. And I desire my executors to make up that £1000 for my wife out of Lockyer's mortgage, and that mortgage upon Richard Martin's estate at florest rowe.

I desire that Edward Payne pay unto his son Edward £10 p. ann. during the time he lives at Legsheath.

I desire to be buried in a Christian manner, and to be carried upon men's shoulders. And I desire there may be roast beef, and boiled beef for all the people to eat of that come to my funeral. And I desire Master Bond, Master Humphry, Master Browne, Master Banester, and Charles Woodman, may all have mourning hatbands. And I desire they shall all have beer, wine, and gloves that are invited, and the relations to have mourning hatbands.

My cousin William Payne son of Edward Payne, of Monkshill, to be full and sole executor.

And I make John Turner and Edward Jenner executors, in trust to William Payne my heir, till he arrives at three and twenty years.

And I desire to be buried by daylight.

The comment suggests itself that, whatever his harmless predilection for public display, the careful forethought of providing roast beef as well as boiled beef for his own funeral banquet, when he would no longer be acting host, is indicative of a kindly and thoughtful nature. Possibly the "desire to be buried by daylight" was due to some misgivings as to the duration of the little orgy he thus anticipated over his remains, for, considering what the nearest route must have been like in those days between Legsheath Farm and East Grinstead Church, it would need an early start and resolute bearers to have accomplished the task set them.

Much of old Monkshill was standing fifteen years ago as it probably was in Queen Elizabeth's time. Mawles has disappeared, though its site near Monkshill is well known to old inhabitants. Legsheath, though restored, still remains much as the old Sheriff knew it in his boyhood more than 200 years ago, and, as a farmhouse, remote from the haunts of men, happily retains much of

its pretty old-world character amid surroundings which have probably altered little since the days of Queen Elizabeth, when the Sheriff's ancestors at Plawhatch and Monkshill added Legsheath to their modest landed possessions.

## THE PAYNES OF EAST GRINSTEAD.

It is impossible to write much concerning East Grinstead without making constant reference to one branch or another of the numerous families of Paynes. The origin of the name is by no means certain. The theory generally accepted is that it is derived from the French *pain*—bread, and that the earliest owners of it in this county were those who came from Normandy many centuries ago and settled in the neighbourhood of Rye and Winchelsea. The Paynes of Pixtons are referred to in earlier chapters and the following additional particulars are of interest. The will of George Payne was proved November 7th, 1538, and is here subjoined:—

In dei nomine Amen, the xxix. day of August in the yere of our lord god a Thousande fyve hundreth xxxvij. I George Payne of Estgrensted in the countie of Sussex being hole in mynde and w<sup>th</sup> good remembraunce make this my last wille and testamente in fourme following, in primis I bequeth my soule to almighty god our lady Saint Mary and to all the holy company of hevyn, and my body to be buried in the Churchyearde of Saint Swythyrne in Grensted aforsaid. Item I bequeth to the high awter there for my tithes and offeryngs forgotten 3<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>. Item I bequeth to Agnes my wife a bedde with all the things apperteyning therto. Item I will to hir twoe kyne and a mare. Item I will to Joane my doughter twenty pounds of lawfull money. Item I will to Clemens my doughter twentie poundes. Item yf my wife be with childe w<sup>t</sup> a doughter I will to it twentie poundes, yf any of the said doughters to dye or she be maried that then I wille every of them to be others heires equally to be devided among them. Item to Johune my sonne all my freeholds to him and his heires. Item all suche lands as I have in morgage as doth appere by Indentures that John my sonne shall have them, yf my wife be with childe w<sup>t</sup> a man childe that then I will that Edward my sonne shal have the money of the said morgage landes yf the money be paid agayn or ells the lands whether it be. Item yf my wife have no man childe then I will that the money that comyth agayn in payment shall be equally devided amonge all my children. Item I will to John my sonne my fferme of Brestowe parke w<sup>t</sup> all goods and catalls being uppon the said groundes at the making of this p'sent testamente. . . . Item I will to Roger my servant shal have his mending of wayes betwene fforest Rowe and

Grensted 20<sup>s</sup>. Item I will that John Boton my servant shal have his indenture and 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> of money. Item I bequeth to every of my god children 4<sup>d</sup>. Item I will that my good maister Sir John Gage twoe colts nowe being in Brestowe parke and to goo there tyll they twoe be able to be rydden, if it please him desiring him to be good maister to all my children and specially to John my sonne, all the residue of my goodes not bequethed I give to my sonnes John and Edward except that my wyfe have a man childe that then I will that Edward shall have all the said goodes to his owne use and profite ffurthermore I make and ordeyne my brother John Payne and Thomas Pellam of ffyrryll my executoours to see my children ruled and this my testamente fulfilled to the pleasure of god and the welthe of my soule and every of them to have for their labours fyve mrks. Testes William Auery, James Cole, Thomas Rutter cum multis aliis.

The above testator, George Payne, son of John Payne, of Pixtons (see pp. 71-2), was evidently a yeoman of good substance as money went in those days. His father in 1507 had devised to him the tenement of Beeches (? in Ashurst Wood), but whether George lived there we have no certain information beyond the fact that he seems from the evidence of his own will to have undertaken repair of the road between Forest Row and East Grinstead.

His elder brother, John, had succeeded his parents at Pixtons and his descendants seem to have owned that farm until, in 1615, John Payne, sen., of Pickstones, and Elizabeth, his wife, sold it to John Goodwin, gent., from whose family it seems to have passed to Mr. John Conyers, who married a Miss Goodwin and was M.P. for East Grinstead in 1695, and later it belonged to Mr. Wicken and the Trulock family.

In 1615 the Manor of Pixtons seems to have consisted of one messuage, one barn, one garden, one orchard, 20 acres of arable land, 16 acres of meadow land, 14 acres of pasture, four acres of wood and three acres of moorland, all in East Grinstead, and the whole appears to have been acquired by John Goodwin for the modest sum of £100.

George Payne, whose will is quoted above, left two sons, John and Edward, who both became prominent townsmen of East Grinstead. John was the testator, whose will, proved in 1580, is mentioned on pp. 123-4, in connection with the old almshouses in Church Street, and he was

also one of the burgesses of East Grinstead to whom the silver seal was presented in 1572, and a prosperous iron-master, as mentioned on p. 142.

Edward, the younger son of the testator, George Payne, born about 1536, was buried at East Grinstead in 1599 as "Edward Paine the Elder." He was a burgess of East Grinstead and had married Katherine Losco, a widow of means belonging to Southwell, Co. Notts.

Their eldest son Edward (1560-1642) became the direct ancestor of a long line of Paynes "of the Town," who, as ironmasters and landowners, rose to considerable affluence in East Grinstead and the neighbouring district during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Their daughter Clemence married John Farley, of East Grinstead, and had a numerous family.

Burstow, or Brestowe Park Manor, mentioned in the above testator's will, was originally a possession of the Archbishop of Canterbury and included in the Manor of Wimbledon. In 1531 Archbishop Warham granted the manor to Sir John Gage on lease for 80 years, which accounts for the testator's reference to Sir John Gage, and his desire that the latter should be a good master to his children, and also perhaps accounts for his choice of Thomas Pelham, of Firle, as an executor. In 1649 Edward Payne, of East Grinstead, gent., a descendant of the testator, George Payne, bought the Manor of Burstow Park and it descended for many generations in his family.

## THE SUSSEX DIARISTS AND LOCAL REFERENCES.

Mr. Cramp was by no means the first Sussex diarist.

The Rev. Giles Moore, Rector of Horsted Keynes, was one of the first of this small band. He died on October 3rd, 1679, and from his diary the following references to East Grinstead are taken:—

Oct. 2nd, 1656. J. Dawes brought mee from Grinstead 4 stone of beefe, which at 22d. the stone and 2-lb. of sewet at 4d. come to 8s.

Aug. 18th, 1662. I set forwards on my journey to Chichester with Mr. Hale and Mr. Chatfield, physician and scholemaster at East Grinstead, who met us at Portslade, whither wee went together and came back together. On the 19th I payed in theyr presence to Robert Symes, sub-collector for the tythes of 1660 and 1661 due at Christmasse, the summe of £2 and a marke all over and above for charges, to the which he knavishly and unjustly put me, amounting to £1. 6s. 7d. I spent in charges going and coming, 10s. 10d.

Aug. 10th, 1667. To Mr. Moore, of East Grinstead, collector, for 8 fire hearths due for one whole yeare expiring at Michaelmas, together with one yeare more for the brewhouse chimney, I payed 18s. (The hearth and chimney tax was clearly no light one at this time.)

Sept. 12th, 1669. I spent at East Grinstead when Mat (apparently his daughter) was confirmed by the Bishop, 1s. 4d.

In the journal of Timothy Burrell, barrister-at-law, of Ockenden House, Cuckfield, occurs the following:—

March 24th, 1687. Church tax 11d. Letter 4d. 9 ells of Holland £1. 4s. I spent at East Grinstead (possibly during the Assizes) £1. 2s.

March 26th, 1693. I spent at the Assizes at East Grinstead £1. 5s. (The Winter Assizes in these days were held alternately at East Grinstead and Horsham, and in the summer at Lewes.)

Richard Stapley, in his diary, under date August 3rd, 1697-8, notes:—

Bought a pair of double sewed ramskin gloves of Tobie Showen, of East Grinstead, which cost me 2s. 6d.

Tobias Shewin will be found mentioned on page 40 as a burgess of the Borough in 1678-1683.

Thomas Turner, of East Hoathly, who belonged to the family which for several centuries has occupied Tablehurst, Forest Row, left this record in his voluminous diary:—

May 2nd, 1764. This day was fought a main of cocks at our public-house between the gentlemen of East Grinstead and the gentlemen of East Hoathly, for half-a-guinea a battle and two guineas the odd battle, which was won by the gentlemen of East Grinstead, they winning five battles out of six fought in the main. I believe there was a good deal of money sported on both sides.

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# THE ABERGAVENNY FAMILY AND KIDBROOKE.

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## CHAPTER XV.

THIS ancient and noble family, described by one historian as being to mediæval England what the Douglas family was to Scotland, had a very intimate connection with East Grinstead for a period which extended a little over a century.

The mansion of Kidbrooke, at Forest Row, was built for William, the 42nd Lord Abergavenny and 14th Baron of the present creation, the money for the purpose being provided by a special Act of Parliament passed in 1733, authorising the sale of the Abergavenny entailed estates at Kidderminster, known as the Manors of Kidderminster Borough and Kidderminster Forren, and the re-investment of the proceeds in this parish. In 1744 another Act of Parliament was obtained for settling the mansion of Kidbrooke and the lands belonging to it to the uses of the family estates.

The Harleian manuscripts in the British Museum contain a pedigree which professes to show the descent of this illustrious family from Adam, through Enos and Mahalahal to Noah, thence on to Woden, from him to Hengist, King of Kent, then to Uchtred the Saxon, then through the Earls of Northumberland to the present known line. But modern historians generally content themselves with tracing its descent from Gilbert de Nevill, a Norman chieftain, who is said to have been Admiral to William the Conqueror.

The particular branch of the family which occupied Kidbrooke sprang from Sir Edward Nevill, K.G. (whose mother was a daughter of John of Gaunt), sixth son of Ralph, 1st Earl of Westmoreland, and uncle to the



famous Earl of Warwick and Salisbury, commonly known in history as "The King Maker." This Sir Edward was the 27th Baron of his line and the first Baron Abergavenny of the present creation. He was a Yorkist, high in favour with Edward IV., and one of his nieces married the Duke of Clarence, brother of this monarch. Another married, firstly, Edward, Prince of Wales, son of Henry VI., and, secondly, Richard III., who stepped to the throne after his murder of Edward V. and his brother in the Tower of London. The all-powerful Earl of Warwick seized his nephews' lands, castle and lordship, and himself became Baron Abergavenny, but the possessions were re-granted to George Nevill, grandson of Edward, by Henry VIII.

It was in 1735 that the family removed from Birling, in Kent, to Kidbrooke, in East Grinstead, and in 1805 they transferred their residence back to Eridge, the castle there, which was one of their ancestral homes many centuries before, having been re-built. The then Lord Abergavenny sold Kidbrooke to the Right Hon. Charles Abbot, who was Speaker of the House of Commons for over 15 years, and was made Lord Colchester at his retirement on June 3rd, 1817. He died on May 8th, 1829. Kidbrooke was greatly altered by him under the superintendence of Mr. Robert Mylne, the architect of Blackfriars Bridge. On November 3rd, 1874, the mansion and park of 207 acres were sold by his grandson to the late Mr. H. R. Freshfield, J.P., D.L., Sheriff of Sussex in 1885.

When Mr. Abbot sent down his agent to look at the property in 1805 the only good road was that which ran through the village from London to Lewes; that to Tunbridge Wells through Hartfield could be used by a carriage in summer only. The query as to the principal product of the place was answered in one word—Rabbits. Mr. Abbot, under the direction of the famous garden architect, Repton, laid out the grounds, planted extensively and made ornamental lakes and cascades. He purchased, either with Kidbrooke, or very shortly

afterwards, Hindleap Warren, which he also laid out as an ornamental ground, with drives, walks and summer-houses. He planned a lodge to be built near Hindleap Farm on the top of the hill, but it was never erected. Among the documents left by Mr. Abbot is a draft of a letter to the Home Secretary asking that the bodies of the highwaymen hung on Wall Hill might be taken down before his wife drove to town. Thirty years ago persons were living in Forest Row who remembered having been taken, as boys, to touch the heels of the corpses, a custom in vogue in order to impress their minds with the results of such crimes. It is on record that at this time half the hands employed in the garden at Kidbrooke were "dames." In Kidbrooke woods there is a spring of water very strongly impregnated with iron, and near it an obelisk, erected by the first Lord Colchester in remembrance of the escape of one of his sons from shipwreck in the China Seas.

When the late Mr. Freshfield bought the estate he built a new west wing, an entrance tower and remodelled the hall and offices, making also considerable improvements outside. He also built the Village Hall at Forest Row as a memorial to his grandson, the architect being the late J. M. Brydon, who designed the great block of public offices now in course of erection opposite the Houses of Parliament. The estate of Kidbrooke, together with Hindleap, Broadstone and Pressridge Warrens, is now owned by his son, Mr. Douglas W. Freshfield, the well-known traveller, who, in the last named Warren, has built, for his own use, a magnificent mansion, surrounded by beautiful grounds, in which the wild beauties of nature are charmingly blended with the art and skill of man.

The founder of Kidbrooke was the first of his line to be buried in the extensive vault beneath the Parish Church of East Grinstead. He died on September 21st, 1744, at the early age of 46, and it is to his memory that the only mural tablet concerning the Abergavenny family remains on the walls of the building, others having possibly been destroyed when the church was

wrecked by the falling of the tower in 1785. The inscription on this reads:—

HIC JUXTA DEPOSITÆ RELIQUÆ  
HONORATISSIMI DOMINI  
GULIELMI DOMINI ABERGAVENNY  
BARONIS ANGLIÆ PRIMARIJ;  
QUI DIGNITATEM, A LONGA TRADITAM MAJORUM SERIE  
GERENDO VERE ILLUSTRÊM,  
MERENDO FECIT SUAM.  
OBIIIT 21 SEPTEMBRIS 1744  
SULÆQUE ÆTATIS 47.

The bodies of two other Lords Abergavenny lie in the vault, namely, George Nevill, the first Earl of Abergavenny, who died on September 10th, 1785, aged 58, and the Rt. Hon. Henry Nevill, the second Earl of Abergavenny, Viscount Nevill and Baron of Abergavenny, K.T., who died, aged 88, on March 27th, 1843. The funeral took place on April 4th. The remains of the deceased nobleman were brought in great state from Eridge Castle. The hearse and chief mourning coach were each drawn by six horses; three other coaches were drawn by four horses each; numerous carriages were also included in the cavalcade, and many retainers on horseback brought up the rear; but the grandeur of the display was greatly interfered with by a heavy and incessant rain. The clergyman who officiated was the Rev. Robert Gream, Rector of Rotherfield, Chaplain to Lord Abergavenny, and the father of the first Mother Superior of St. Margaret's, East Grinstead.

The vault was in use exactly 100 years and the following is a complete list of the 20 members of the Abergavenny family interred therein:—

William Nevill, Lord Abergavenny, the founder of Kidbrooke. He was the son of Commodore Edward Nevill, who died abroad, by his marriage with Hannah, daughter of Mr. Jervoise Thorp. He succeeded his cousin Edward as 14th Baron and as 42nd Lord Abergavenny on October 9th, 1724. Lord Edward died when only 18 years of age and left a young widow, Catherina, daughter of Lieut.-Gen. Tatton, of Withenshaw, Cheshire. After seven months of widowhood, this lady married Lord William, so that she was twice over Lady Abergavenny. She died in 1729 and nearly three years later his Lordship married Lady Rebecca Herbert, daughter of the Earl of Pembroke. Lord Abergavenny was for a time Master of the

Jewel Office. He died on September 21st, 1744, aged 46, and was buried at East Grinstead on September 30th.

The Hon. Mary Nevill, daughter of Lord William by his second marriage with Lady Rebecca Herbert, died July 24th, 1758, aged 22. Buried August 2nd.

Lady Rebecca Nevill, Dowager Lady Abergavenny, widow of Lord William, of Kidbrooke, died September, 1758, aged 54. Buried at East Grinstead, September 22nd.

The Hon. Sophia Nevill, daughter of Lord William, of Kidbrooke, died December 29th, 1758, aged 21. Buried January 4th, 1759.

Mary Rebow, wife of Mr. C. C. Rebow, of Smallfield Place, Burstow, daughter of the Hon. Edward Nevill, younger brother of Lord George, the 11th Baron Abergavenny, died June 26th, 1762, aged 63. Buried July 3.

The Hon. Harriet Nevill, daughter of Lord William, of Kidbrooke, died August 8th, 1762, aged 28. Buried August 14th.

Hannah Nevill, widow of Commodore Edward Nevill and mother of Lord William, of Kidbrooke, died March 25th, 1764, aged 96, having survived her husband by no less than 63 years. Buried April 2nd.

Henrietta Nevill, wife of George, 1st Earl and 15th Baron of Abergavenny. She was a daughter of Thomas Pelham, of Stanmer, and sister of the first Earl of Chichester. She died August 29th, 1768, aged 38, and was buried on September 8th.

George Nevill, 1st Earl and 15th Baron Abergavenny, the only son of William, 14th Baron, by his marriage with Catherine, widow of Lord Edward, 13th Baron. This nobleman was Lord Lieutenant of Sussex and was raised to the dignity of an Earldom on May 17th, 1784. Died September 10th, 1785, aged 58. Buried September 18th.

Lord Henry George, Viscount Nevill, eldest son of Henry, 2nd Earl and 16th Baron of Abergavenny, died April 8th, 1806, aged 21. Buried April 20th.

The Hon. and Rev. William Nevill, son of William, 14th Baron, by his second wife, daughter of the Earl of Pembroke. Rector of Bishopston, Wilts, and Burghley, Hants. Died July 22nd, 1810, aged 69. Buried July 30th.

The Hon. Catherine Nevill, only daughter of Lord William, of Kidbrooke, by his first marriage with his cousin's widow. She was Maid of Honour to Queen Charlotte, Consort of George III., and died unmarried on January 19th, 1820, aged 92. Buried January 27th.

The Rev. George Henry Nevill, Rector of Chiltonington, Sussex, eldest son of the Hon. George Henry Nevill, by his marriage with Caroline, daughter of the Hon. R. Walpole, M.P. for Yarmouth, died September 20th, 1825, aged 33. Buried September 27th.

Capt. Lord Ralph, Viscount Nevill, R.N., second son of Henry, 2nd Earl and 16th Baron of Abergavenny, died May 20th, 1826, aged 39. Buried May 29th.

The Hon. Lady Henrietta Nevill, second daughter of Henry, Earl of Abergavenny, died July 28th, 1827, aged 39. Buried August 6th.

Mary Ann Bruce, Viscountess Nevill, daughter of Mr. Bruce Elcock, widow of Capt. Viscount Nevill, R.N., second son of the 2nd Earl Abergavenny, died June 6th, 1828, aged 32. Buried June 16th.

The Rev. Henry Walpole Nevill, second son of the Hon. George Henry Nevill. He married a daughter of Sir Edmund Bacon, and she being left early a widow, married Col. Sir Hambleton Francis Custance, K.C.B. Died March 3rd, 1837, aged 33. Buried March 10th.

Caroline, wife of the Hon. George Henry Nevill, of Flower Place, Godstone, second son of the 1st Earl Abergavenny, died December 21st, 1841, aged 76. Buried December 28th.

The Rt. Hon. Henry Nevill, 2nd Earl of Abergavenny, Viscount Nevill, 16th Baron of Abergavenny, K.T., died March 27th, 1843, aged 88. Buried April 4th.

The Hon. George Henry Nevill, of Flower Place, Godstone, second son of George, 1st Earl of Abergavenny, died August 7th, 1844, aged 84. Buried August 15th.



## DR. NEALE AND ST. MARGARETS.

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### CHAPTER XVI.

No history of East Grinstead would be complete which did not contain some account of the rise and progress of that beneficent and popular institution known as St. Margaret's, and some outline of the career of the scholarly and remarkable man who founded it. John Mason Neale was born in London, January 24th, 1818. His father was a highly-gifted clergyman and his mother a lady remarkable for her force of character. He was brought up as a strict Evangelical, but after entering Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1836, his views soon broadened and he became a co-founder of the "Cambridge Camden," afterwards called "The Ecclesiological Society," its object being to re-construct the visible worship and Church architecture of England. How vast was the work it accomplished is known to all students of Church history. In 1842 Mr. Neale was made a priest and presented to the living of Crawley, but he held it for six weeks only, resigning in consequence of ill-health. The next three years he spent abroad with his wife, who was a Miss Webster and aunt to Lord Alverstone, the present Lord Chief Justice of England. He was far from idle during this time. The amount of literary work he accomplished was marvellous. He wrote magazine articles and pamphlets by the hundred, poems and hymns by the dozen, entered the domain of fiction, but shone most as a Church historian, his uncompleted "History of the Holy Eastern Church" gaining him a world-wide reputation and winning him the special thanks of the Czar of Russia, who made him a valuable present in recognition of his great labours. He came to East Grinstead, as the Warden of Sackville College, in 1846, and here he remained for 20 years, never resting, always devising something for the benefit of his poorer

neighbours, always having some literary work on hand. It was while here that he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Hartford College, Connecticut. Those still living can well remember the bitter opposition which his earlier efforts aroused, nor are the riots in East Grinstead and Lewes forgotten, while we still occasionally get vague echoes of the vituperation which poured upon him through the Press of Sussex. But quietly, lovingly, this great scholar and earnest worker plodded on, until he lived down all opposition and won for himself and his work a love and a reverence which is intensified as the years roll on.

It is impossible to exaggerate the great value of his contributions to our national literature. The hymns composed or translated by him are sung in every country where the Christian faith is known, and the popularity will never fade of such beautiful lines as "Brief life is here our portion," "To thee, O dear, dear country," "Art thou weary?" "Jerusalem the golden" and "The day is past and over." About one-twelfth of "Hymns Ancient and Modern" are from his pen. He won the Seatonian prize for poetry about a dozen times in all; he was for three years leader writer for *The Morning Chronicle*; he published works in many different languages—he was a master of about twenty; and the British Museum Library catalogue contains a list of something like 140 books written by him. Everything he undertook he did thoroughly and he was wont to say, "What is possible *may* be done; what is impossible *must* be done." The keynote of his life is beautifully expressed by his own words in his Seatonian poem on Egypt:—

Go forward!

Forward, when all seems lost, when the cause looks utterly hopeless;  
Forward, when brave hearts fail, and to yield is the rede of the  
coward;

Forward, when friends fall off, and enemies gather around thee;  
Thou, though alone with thy God, though alone in thy courage, go  
forward!

So much for the man; now for the work. Of the reasons which led to the founding of St. Margaret's, no better account can be given than that written by Dr.

Neale himself. His study window commanded a view of Ashdown Forest, and gazing over its wide expanse he saw "scattered farms, lonely groups of two or three houses in an isolated green, 'ellenge' (*i.e.*, solitary) cottages, charcoal-burners' huts, places four or five miles—and then through the worst of lanes—from any church: how are the poor inhabitants to be attended to in this world and prepared for the next?" This question often forced itself on his notice and in the winter of 1854 two friends offered to engage in any work of mercy he cared to suggest, so it was determined to start a Sisterhood. A few weeks later Miss Gream, daughter of the Rector of Rotherfield, and who afterwards became Sister Ann and the first Mother Superior, offered her services. In the spring of 1855 a circular was issued, stating that it was proposed to establish an institution for supplying the clergy of Central Sussex and South Surrey with nurses trained for attendance on the sick poor, and their services were to be entirely gratuitous. Funds soon came in and one of the future Sisters was sent to Westminster Hospital to get nursing training. A second Sister soon followed, and in July of the same year the operations of the Sisterhood began. Its two first members were for a time resident in Sackville College and attended to the needs of the old people there. They also had a small house at Rotherfield, where one or two resided when not engaged in nursing work. The first Sister who went out on a nursing expedition of mercy left East Grinstead for Shoreham by the very first train which ran out of East Grinstead Station on the day of opening the line, July 9th, 1855.

The need of a central home in East Grinstead soon became apparent, so the house now used as offices by Messrs. Pearless & Sons was taken and the Sisters moved into it in June, 1856. Old Mr. Gream died at the same time and his daughter was free to take up her duties as Mother Superior and to devote the remainder of her life to the work of the Sisterhood. Then came the death of Miss Scobell and the riot at her funeral at Lewes, at which Dr. Neale and the Sisters barely escaped



serious injury. The owner of the house occupied in East Grinstead had conscientious scruples about allowing the Sisters to remain there any longer and they had to seek premises elsewhere. For a while they sought a home in vain, but finally rented premises, also in Church Street and nearer the main road, subsequently acquiring also the house where Mr. F. M. Wilcox now carries on his saddlery business, and afterwards getting the use also of the two adjoining houses. The premises were found most convenient and here the Sisters remained from Midsummer, 1858, until the present head-quarters were ready in 1870. Prior to this change the original scope of the work had been enlarged. Early in 1857 Miss Elizabeth Neale, who had for some time carried on an Orphanage at Brighton, was invited to take charge of a Sisterhood at St. George's-in-the-East, and at her request her brother took over the orphans and placed them under the charge of the Sisters at East Grinstead, a house being specially hired in the town. Dr. Neale took for the purpose the house known as 'The Hollies' in London Road, where Mr. Henry Young now resides. It was called St. Katherine's Orphanage and two Sisters were placed in charge. This is his own simple, delightful description, from one of his children's books, of the house as it was then:—"This house stood by the roadside on the outskirts of a country town. It was built of brick, but in summer it had white roses that climbed very prettily over it. On one side was a fruit garden, on the other a little paddock; and in the distance there were pretty blue hills. If you went in, on the left hand was a kind of school room, and on the right a parlour; and if you went upstairs, there were bedrooms for a number of children, and beyond these a little chapel, where these children went in to prayers." The Orphanage was only located here until Midsummer, 1858, when it was removed to one of the houses adjoining the Home in the High Street and re-named St. Margaret's Orphanage, by which title it is still known.

St. Agnes' School for girls was opened in May, 1862, at the house in Moat Road where Mr. Charles Wood, the

dentist, formerly resided, but it soon outgrew that and was removed to the larger residence now occupied by the Rev. J. Waller. In time this likewise got overcrowded, so the next house, now occupied by St. Margaret's School, was also taken, and the two were joined by a covered corridor, long since removed. One house was known as St. Agnes, the other as St. Cecilia. The school was removed to the mother home in 1874 and now has about 65 boarders. The necessity for some larger building, where all the various branches of the work might be centralised, had long been apparent, and ten acres of ground for the intended buildings, with the stone quarry adjoining, were purchased in 1864. The first stone of the magnificent pile was laid on July 20th, 1865, by the late Mr. Francis Barchard, of Little Horsted, near Uckfield, and a blessing was pronounced on the work by the Archimandrite Stratuli of the Russian Church. Dr. Neale thus saw the beginning of the work which lay nearest his heart. He never lived to see its completion. A year after the foundation stone was laid he passed peacefully away, his premature death a distinct loss to all Christendom.

The founder's death was not allowed in any way to interfere with the progress of the noble works which he had initiated. St. Margaret's was at once looked on as a memorial to Dr. Neale, and was ready for occupation in 1870. First the Sisterhood and Orphanage, then St. Agnes' School, then the Industrial Training School for Servants were removed there, and to-day the institution has an average residential population of 230. The magnificently proportioned chapel, considered one of the late Mr. Street's masterpieces, was opened on February 24th, 1883, and the next development was the building of a Guest House. In 1892 St. Margaret's College was opened in the old premises which had been known as St. Cecilia, and here there are now about 40 boarders and 45 day scholars. Some exquisite work is carried on within the Convent walls. The Sisters make ecclesiastical and secular embroidery of delicate and most artistic design. They have established guilds, meetings and schools for

all classes of the inhabitants, and many a stricken home has been brightened and many a weary sufferer cheered by the presence of one of the self-sacrificing, kindly ladies of St. Margaret's.

The work has long reached beyond the confines, not only of Sussex, but of England. There are to-day branch Orphanages in Hitchin, Worcester and Burton-on-Trent; Missions in Cardiff, Sunderland, Dundee, Newcastle and Chichester; a Home for Consumptives at Ventnor; a Convalescent Home for Ladies at Kingsand; a Cottage Hospital and Nursing Home at Saltash; a Home of Rest at Shingcliffe; a Free Home for the Dying at Clapham Common; and a number of branch works in Ceylon and Johannesburg. There are daughter houses, each with several branch works of her own, known as St. Margaret's of Scotland, Aberdeen; St. Saviour's Priory, London, E.; and St. Margaret's Home, Boston, U.S.A. These three daughter houses are governed by the same rules, but they elect their own Superiors and are dependent on their own friends and resources for income.

A lady who feels disposed to devote herself to the work of St. Margaret's must first enter as a postulant for six months, during which time she is bound by no engagement, but lives in the House, shares the life and keeps the rules of the Sisters, in order that a judgment may be formed on both sides as to her fitness for the community. If the judgment be mutually favourable she stands for election as a novice, and must be elected as such by a majority of the Sisters. The novitiate lasts not less than two years, and the votes of a majority of two-thirds of the professed Sisters of the House is necessary in order to admit a novice to full profession, by which act she devotes herself to God and the service of the poor for life as a Sister of Charity. How well this work is performed is recognised and appreciated wherever the name of St. Margaret's is known.

Dr. Neale was succeeded in the chaplaincy of St. Margaret's by the Rev. Laughton Alison, M.A., who, coming of a family settled at Chorley, in Lancashire, and in enjoyment of an honourable record in that county,

graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge, and afterwards served the Curacy of Cuckfield, Sussex. He was appointed Chaplain in March, 1867, soon after completing his 31st year, and held the position until his death on September 19th, 1892. He was a worthy successor to the great founder; a man of sincere piety, of wide general information and cheerfulness of spirit; eloquent in speech and kindly in manner; a man who could not fail to win the affection of all he met; the friend of all in suffering, need or distress. Regarded here in his early days with distrust, by reason of his advanced views, he lived down, and more than lived down, every vestige of this early unpopularity, never personal to himself, but attaching to the office he held in a community, viewed in those days with somewhat general disfavour, but now enjoying almost universal esteem. Many probably will credit Laughton Alison, and justly too, perhaps, with a prime share in effecting this pleasant change of sentiment towards an institution of which East Grinstead may well be proud. Certain it is, that for all his retiring habits, and almost unconnected as he was with the parochial life of East Grinstead, he somehow came to be known and held in affectionate esteem by all classes in the town, and on the day of his quiet funeral the place seemed hushed in general mourning for a well-loved friend. Such in brief outline was Father Alison, a title gradually conceded to him outside his cure, even by those who in matters of ritual stood far apart from him, but learnt to know his worth, and to read in him the record of a useful, unselfish and singularly blameless life. To him succeeded the Rev. R. E. Hutton, the present Chaplain, who was born in 1859 at Sompting Vicarage, Sussex, and ordained Priest in 1885 in Chichester Cathedral. Prior to coming to East Grinstead Mr. Hutton held several curacies, among others that of Pevensey, under the Ven. Archdeacon Sutton, and All Saints', Clifton, under Dr. Randall, the late Dean of Chichester.

The first Mother Superior, Miss Gream (Sister Ann), was succeeded by Miss Crocker (Sister Alice), a very

gifted lady, who acted as amanuensis to Dr. Neale for many years, writing, at his dictation, in several different languages, which he himself had taught her. She died on June 2nd, 1902, and was buried with every token of wide-spread respect in the recently-opened burial ground attached to the Convent. Sister Ermenild, a daughter of the founder, and a lady whose election gave intense satisfaction to all friends of St. Margaret's, succeeded her in her honourable office.

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# THE BURNING OF THE MARTYRS.

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## CHAPTER XVII.

EAST GRINSTEAD did not escape the persecutions which became almost universal in England during the reign of Queen Mary. On July 18th, 1556, Anne Tree (familiarly known as Mother Tree), Thomas Dungate and John Forman were burned at the stake in East Grinstead, and, so far as is known, were the only martyrs who met their doom in this town. No record of their examination and sufferings has been preserved, but the martyrdom is thus quaintly and briefly recorded in the second volume of Foxe's "Book of Martyrs:"—

Nere about the same tyme that the three women with the infant was burned at Guernsey suffered other three likewise at Grenested in Sussex, two men and one woman, the names of whom were Tho. Dungate, John Forman and Mother Tree, who for righteousness' sake gave themselves to death and tormentes of the fire paciently abidyng what the furious rage of man could say or worke against them at the said Towne of Grenested endyng their lives the xviii. of the sayd moneth of July and in the yeare aforesayd (1556).

Anne Tree's granddaughter of the same name resided at East Grinstead and was married in the time of Elizabeth to Edmund Ellis. The late George Ellis, of East Grinstead, was a lineal descendant. There were Dungates here 100 years later, as is shown by the record of special marriage licenses granted in the Lewes Registry and recently published by the Sussex Record Society. From these it appears that:—

Stephen Dungatt, of East Grinstead, yeoman, was married 13th July, 1611.

Edward Dungat, of East Grinstead, weaver, was married 14th June, 1632, to Anne Bowre.

John Dungate, of East Grinstead, yeoman, was married 1st Nov., 1642, at St. Ann's, Lewes, to Anne Constable, also of East Grinstead.

In a deed dated April 9th, 1609, Stephen Dungate appears as owner of lands near Saint Hill, and as late as

1800 "Dungates Fields" were held with Hollybush and Standen on the Saint Hill Estate.

By 1687 the Dungates had removed to Shoreham, where one John Dungate carried on business as a mercer. On November 10th of the year stated he and his wife Susannah parted with their property in Church Street, East Grinstead, where Mr. J. E. Lark now resides, to Thomas Bodle, yeoman, and his wife Elizabeth, with remainder to Thomas Bodle, junior, a hat-maker, and his wife. This particular property was long known as the Old Almshouses, for what reason is now unknown, except it be that mentioned in the chapter dealing with the charities of East Grinstead. Not only did one of the East Grinstead martyrs evidently reside there, but they were the home also of the Kidders, parents of the boy who became Bishop of Bath and Wells. Margaret Kidder, a widow, sold the property on April 30th, 1639. Much of the adjoining property, then called Gaynesfords, belonged to the Paynes, and a branch of this numerous family held the Old Almshouses quite recently. In 1580 the forge near by was occupied by Joseph Duffelde and John Larke, and it is peculiar that one of the same name, but not sprung from a Sussex family, should be residing there over 320 years later.

About three weeks before the burning of the martyrs in East Grinstead, Henry Adlington, a sawyer, of Grenestead, which may have been either East or West, or Greenstead, in Essex, was burnt with 12 others at Stratford-le-Bow.

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## CRIMINAL RECORDS.

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### CHAPTER XVIII.

VERY few, if any, crimes of world-wide notoriety have been associated with the town of East Grinstead, but it has been the scene of events, both civil and criminal, which have excited considerable local interest and which will bear re-telling in brief form.

The old records tell us that, in consequence of the deplorable condition of the roads in Sussex, the Winter Assizes were held alternately at East Grinstead and Horsham and the Summer Assizes at Lewes, the county town, but this was by no means a fixed rule, for reports are still obtainable of cases tried at Assizes held in East Grinstead during the months of summer. On July 7th, 1565, the Charter of Seaford was exhibited before the Judges here, and Assizes were also held on June 17th, 1678.

The Court House stood in the High Street, the Middle Row at one time forming one end of an almost continuous line of buildings, which joined the four cottages, known as the Round Houses, formerly standing on the site now occupied by the Constitutional Club. At the Lent Assizes in 1684 the floor of the Court gave way while a trial was in progress, and in Sir William Burrell's collection of manuscripts this event is thus described by Mr. Bachelor, who appears to have been at that time a surgeon of East Grinstead:—

On the 17th of March, 1684, the second day of the Assizes, a jury being sworn, consisting mostly of Knights and gentlemen, on a trial between Lord Howard and another person of distinction, the floor of the Nisi Prius Court fell down, and with it all the jury gentlemen, counsel and lawyers into the cellar; yet no person received any considerable injury except one witness, who was cut across the forehead. The bench where the Judge sat fell not, but hung almost to a miracle. The rest of the trials were held in the Crown Court, and the Sessions House was soon after quite pulled down.

The building was, however, immediately re-erected, principally at the cost of the "burgage holders"—or, in



other words, the owner of this "pocket borough." The last Assizes at East Grinstead were held in 1799.

The Judges were not the only people who held their Courts at East Grinstead in the olden days. On April 30th, 1605, Archbishop Bancroft, who was distinguished for his opposition to the Puritans, came to the town on his Metropolitan Visitation and deprived ten ministers of their livings.

The old Sessions House, with its adjuncts—the lock-up or cage at the west end and the stocks and whipping-post at the east—were removed during 1829. The building materials were taken over to Buckhurst to aid in the construction of the mansion there, and the Judge's chair used in the Court still forms part of the furniture of the De la Warrs' ancestral home. The old Court House was occasionally used by a company of strolling players, and at one time just prior to its demolition an unsuccessful attempt was made to establish a meat and vegetable market therein. The Dukes of Dorset, as owners of the Manor of Imberhorne, long claimed a rent in respect of the Assizes held here. The following interesting entries are copied from the rent roll of the estate:—

	£	s.	d.
1700. Of the Bayliffe for the rents of Assize of the said Borough pr ann .....	1	11	8
For one year due Mich <sup>as</sup> 1700 .....	1	11	8

#### EAST GRINSTEAD BURGEES.

Of the Baylift for the Rents of Assize of the said Borough p. ann 1 <sup>th</sup> xi <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup> for two years, rent due at Michmas 1720 .....	003	3	4
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#### MANERII OF IMBERHORNE.

Of the Baylift for the Rents of Assize of the said mannor p. ann xiiij <sup>th</sup> xij <sup>s</sup> for two years due at Michmas 1720 .....	029	4	0
ffive years taxes due at Ladyday 1720 .....	006	5	0
recvd .....	022	19	0

#### EAST GRINSTEAD BURGEES.

Of the Baylift for three years rent of Assize being xxxi <sup>s</sup> viij p. ann .....	004	15	0
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#### IMBERHORNE.

Of the Baylift for three years rent of Assize being lv <sup>s</sup> p. ann.	008	5	0
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The last execution took place on the Gallows Croft, a field now forming part of Halsford Park, in 1799, a man being hanged for horse stealing. Gallows Croft, described in 1710 as Pilchers, being three acres near East Grinstead Common, was, for many generations, part of the Paynes' property, and so descended to Mr. R. Crawford, of Saint Hill, by whom it was sold to the Stemming family about 1840. The name Gallows Croft does not appear to have attached to the field until late in the eighteenth century. In still earlier times executions took place immediately in front of the fine old stone house in Judge's Terrace, belonging to Mr. P. E. Wallis. These houses are so named as they stand on the site of an earlier residence occasionally used as the Judge's lodgings during the Assizes, though for some years the representatives of the law found accommodation in Sackville College, where the suite of apartments reserved for the use of the Dukes of Dorset was placed at their disposal.

For Magisterial business Courts were for very many years held alternately at East Grinstead and Forest Row, at the former place at the Crown Hotel, on the fourth Monday in each month, and at the latter place at the Swan Hotel, on the second Monday. The present Police Station in West Street, or, as it was then called, Chapel Lane, was erected in 1860, and the Bench Room added in 1875, being first used for a Petty Sessional Court on January 17th, 1876. From 1820 to 1860 the Clerkship to the Justices was held by Mr. C. N. Hastie, who was succeeded by his son and partner, Mr. A. Hastie, who was again succeeded on his retirement, January 27th, 1896, by his partner, Mr. E. P. Whitley Hughes.

In former days the ordinary police were helped in their duties by the parish constables, who were annually appointed long after the creation of the existing county force. The last of these appointments in East Grinstead was made on February 23rd, 1872, and of the twelve townsmen then nominated Mr. John Tooth is now the only survivor. Under an Act, which did not long remain operative, he was also appointed, by the Vestry, on

October 21st, 1869, the first and only local Inspector of Workshops.

### THE WALL HILL MAIL ROBBERY.

On July 19th, 1801, the Beatsons robbed His Majesty's mail on Wall Hill, East Grinstead. John Beatson was a Scotchman, who, after serving in the merchant service, settled in Edinburgh as an innkeeper. He had adopted a child and named him William Whalley Beatson, who, in due course, married and took over the father's tavern. His wife dying he sold the house and went to London, where he soon lost all his savings at the hands of some unscrupulous sharps who got hold of him. His father became a butler, and both seem to have got into low water. For a time they lived at Hartfield and then drifted back to London. On Saturday, July 18th, 1801, they left the Metropolis and came as far as the Rose and Crown, at Godstone, where they slept for the night. Next morning they came on to the Blue Anchor, at Blindley Heath, and stayed there until the evening.

Then they tramped on through East Grinstead to Wall Hill, and there stopped the mail soon after midnight. They did not injure the driver, but led the horse into an adjoining enclosure and carried off the mail bags to Hartfield, where they hid in a field of standing corn. They opened all the letters and took from them the Bank of England and country notes, leaving the remainder of the contents in the field. These were discovered a month later when the reapers got to work. In drafts, bills, &c., over £9,530 had been left behind. This makes a total of £13,000 or £14,000 carried by the mail. The large sum is accounted for by the fact that in those days even the town of Croydon and the whole district of Godstone and Bletchingley were served from East Grinstead every day except Sunday, for no mail ran on Saturday nights, and the neighbourhoods of Crawley, Cuckfield and Lindfield got their letters on three days a week only, also through East Grinstead. The mail cart used to leave Brighton just after seven o'clock in the

evening, and the Sunday mail, carrying two days' letters, was naturally a heavy one, a fact, no doubt, known to the robbers.

Meanwhile the Beatsons had gone to Westerham, thence to Deptford and London and finally on to Liverpool. They had been suspected, their descriptions circulated and, a hue and cry being raised throughout England, they were finally arrested at the port named. Property to the value of close on £3,000, chiefly in bank notes, was found on them. They were taken to Bow Street and thence to Horsham to await their trial at the Assizes.

Here young Beatson nearly succeeded in escaping from prison, but was re-captured in a sewer. The trial took place on March 29th, 1802, before Baron Hotham, and about 30 witnesses were examined. The father acknowledged his guilt and both he and his son denied that the latter had any hand in the robbery. The jury, however, found both guilty and sentence of death was passed. On April 17th they were brought from Horsham to East Grinstead, and, on a gallows specially erected in the field where they robbed the cart, were hung in the presence of 3,000 spectators. Both acknowledged their guilt and begged forgiveness of all whom they had injured. After death their bodies were taken back to Horsham for burial. It is said, and probably with truth, that the place of execution is clearly indicated to this day by two conspicuous holly trees, which stand out against the sky-line from the modern road running below.

### THE LAW'S SEVERITY IN OLDEN TIME.

In 1710, at East Grinstead, William Longley and Samuel Kingston were convicted of burglaries and sentenced to be hanged by Baron Bury, but they were reprieved and assigned for transportation. Twenty-four years later three death sentences were passed at East Grinstead Assizes, one on a woman for robbery from the person, but all got off with imprisonment. Baron Perrett, in sentencing a real old offender named William

Boldry at East Grinstead in 1771, after ordering him to be hung by the neck till he was dead, added, "Let him be hung in chains on the most convenient spot upon Burpham New Downs, in the parish of Burpham, nearest to the gate at the end of Blakehurst Lane, near Arundel, in the County of Sussex."

At the East Grinstead Assizes on March 24th, 1789, one James Winn was convicted of horse stealing, and as a reward for his efforts in securing a conviction, Henry Bye was granted what was known as a "Tyburn ticket"—in reality a certificate exempting him from all parish and ward offices.

There were East Grinstead bank notes as early as 1812, for on March 23rd of that year Michael Ury was sentenced to death for stealing a £2 East Grinstead bank note.

On August 9th, 1817, sentence of death was passed on James Graham for burglary at Worth.

On March 16th, 1818, James Cooper was sentenced to death for cattle stealing at East Grinstead; at the Assizes a year later, on March 24th, James Betchley suffered a like penalty for horse stealing at Hartfield, and nine years later, on the same day of the month, William Clarke was similarly sentenced for a like offence in the same parish.

At the Summer Assizes at Lewes on July 29th, 1820, there were two cases sent from the East Grinstead Bench, and the death penalty was the Judge's order in both—Horton Clarke for horse stealing at West Hoathly, and William Harcourt and John Butcher for highway robbery at Worth. Three years later, at the corresponding Assizes on July 26th, George Wood was sentenced to death for robbery from the person at Withyham, having been committed from East Grinstead. The ages of prisoners had little effect on the sentences in those days. For instance, two young boys named Wale and Chitter were sent for trial from East Grinstead in 1824 for housebreaking at Hartfield, and on August 14th, at

Lewes, were sentenced to death, but a reprieve, as was usual in such cases, was granted.

East Grinstead Fair yielded its troubles then as it does now. On December 20th, 1824, William Thompson was transported for life for stealing, in the Fair, a pocket book from Mr. John Hillman, of Lewes; and on March 19th, 1832, George Robinson and Robert White were sent beyond the seas for 14 years for stealing £80 in bank notes from John Wickens, a farmer, who had come to the Fair to trade.

For a burglary at East Grinstead in 1826 William Harvey and James Smith were transported for life, but for the less serious crime of housebreaking at Withyham, on December 18th of the succeeding year, John Holmes was sentenced to be hung. A year later, on December 19th, a like penalty fell to the lot of Samuel Thompson and Edward Moon, who were convicted of horse stealing at East Grinstead. Exactly a year later, for a similar offence in the same town, William Payne was also ordered to the scaffold. Two years later, for cattle stealing at East Grinstead, James Booth got off with transportation for life, but on December 14th, 1833, Charles Arnold incurred the death penalty for stealing the paltry sum of 4s. 6d. from the person at Worth.

It is given to but few men to be twice sentenced to death, but such a record is connected with this town. On January 3rd, 1827, Cufty Brooker was ordered to be hung for housebreaking at East Grinstead. He was reprieved and imprisoned for six months only. On August 15th, 1829, he was again sentenced to death for an exactly similar offence in the same town, and a second time he got off with imprisonment. Whether he eventually died on the gallows cannot be traced.

On October 19th, 1829, was executed Richard Gifford, aged 26, whose father was for many years butler to Lord Colchester, at Kidbrooke Park. Lord Colchester had got young Gifford into a Government office, but he went wrong and was hung for obtaining two sums of £125 and £27 by fraud.

## THE AGRICULTURAL RIOTS.

At the close of 1830 the riots throughout the South of England left their effect on this district. The outrages commenced in the adjoining county of Kent and the progressive march of incendiarism was as much feared as that of an invading army. Stacks of grain and farm buildings were everywhere burned and consumed; gangs of men went from farm to farm, breaking all the machinery on the premises, and where the general body of rioters did not go the local discontent was sufficient to change the character of the simple labourer to that of the midnight incendiary. Some neighbouring villages actually assumed the appearance of encampments, as the military and yeomanry made their presence felt and arrested the rioters. The first local convictions took place at the Lewes Assizes on December 18th, 1830, when no less than 45 persons were charged with arson, riot, threats and assaults. In almost every case there was a conviction and a number of men were sentenced to death, but the majority were reprieved, only two, Thomas Goodman, a hoopmaker, of Battle, and Edmund Bushby, a labourer, of East Preston, suffering the extreme penalty, both being executed on New Year's Day, 1831. Among those who escaped entirely was George Buckwell, charged with firing a barn belonging to William Kenward, of Hartfield. Richard Hodd had been committed by the East Grinstead Magistrates for compelling two other men "to go along with him and join a mob who had collected together for riotous and illegal purposes." He was convicted and got off with 18 months' hard labour. A Magistrate on the East Grinstead Bench (Mr. Robert Crawford, of Saint Hill, J.P., D.L.), himself a considerable landlord, records in a letter written some years afterwards to an agricultural newspaper an anecdote which illustrates vividly enough those troublous days in Sussex. He writes: "During the riots of 1830 I dined with the late Sir Godfrey Webster (of Battle Abbey) at Lewes. At a not very early hour the Baronet prepared for his homeward journey. 'You

are a marked man,' said I; 'how are you armed? Barkers?' 'Pooh,' said he, pulling from the right and left pockets of his great coat a couple of hog knives, 'these are the tools—*they never miss fire.*'"

## THE SUSSEX SMUGGLERS.

The Summer Assizes at East Grinstead in 1749 were famous as marking the final break-up of one of the most notorious gangs of smugglers, thieves and murderers that ever infested this country. Thwarted in an attempt to smuggle a cargo of tea from Guernsey, a gang of 30 men, aided by 30 others who kept watch, on the night of October 6th, 1747, broke into the King's Custom House at Poole, and stole the whole consignment of which the revenue officers had deprived them. They then scattered themselves over the counties of Hampshire and Sussex, but the affair was too serious for the law to overlook, and a man named Daniel Chater was brought by a Custom House officer, named William Galley, to this county in order to identify one of the smugglers, named Diamond. They got as far as Rowlands Castle, near Havant, where they were seized by a gang of the men they were in search of. For several days the poor fellows were subjected to the most brutal tortures, and finally Galley was buried before he was quite dead and Chater was thrown into a well in Lady Holt Park, and there stoned until he succumbed. One of those who assisted in Chater's murder was John Mills, and shortly afterwards he and Jeremiah Curtis, suspecting a labourer named Richard Hawkins of having stolen one of their bags of tea, took him to the Dog and Partridge, at Slindon Common, where they were met by several of their companions, including a man named Rowland, or Robb, and commonly called "Little-Fat-Back," who lived in East Grinstead. They thrashed Hawkins to death, tied stones to his arms and legs and threw his body into a pond in Parham Park, where it was discovered nine months later. A great number of arrests followed, and the first batch of this dangerous gang was convicted at



Chichester in January, 1748, and met the doom they richly merited. At the East Grinstead Assizes in August, 1749, there were numerous additional trials.

John Mills, called Smoker, a colt breaker of Trotton, whose father and brother had both been hung, was tried for participation in the murder of Hawkins, and Henry Sheerman, otherwise Little Harry, of West Strutton, for his share in the murder of Galley. Both were sentenced to death and numerous other charges against them were not gone into. Among others of the gang convicted and sentenced to be hung at the same Assizes were John Brown, called "Jockey," a well-known young smuggler, for robbing John Walter of 12 guineas in gold and £12 in silver at Bersted; Lawrence Kemp and Thomas Kemp, two members of the notorious Hawkhurst gang, for burglary at the farmhouse of Richard Havendon, of Heathfield; and Robert Fuller, a keen old smuggler, for stealing 7s. 6d. from William Wittenden, at Worth. All these men were executed, Mills on Slindon Common, where his body was afterwards hung in chains, and the others at Horsham. Among the counsel who appeared for the prosecution in these various trials were Mr. Smythe, K.C., M.P. for East Grinstead, and Mr. Staples, of Hurst-an-Clays.

### A BRAMBLETYE SUIT.

Let us now take a look backward for three centuries. Queen Elizabeth's Council of State had a most peculiar matter brought to its notice from East Grinstead in the year 1579. Brambletye House was then occupied by James Pickas and Katherin, his wife, and they both seem to have been mixed up in strange matters. The Vicar of East Grinstead at that time was Richard Burnopp, who was brought before the Council of State for falsely accusing this James Pickas of having arrested him at his own altar. According to the Star Chamber proceedings, this Vicar was a man

that p'eured his said neighbours to spende in trobles and sutes in law above five hundred poundes and to the end he may still dwell in bralles

aud sutes of lawe he hath very shamefully offered certain somes of money unto one Thomas Ellis to enter into sutes of lawe again with him.

He may therefore have had a finger in the following strange suit, in which a lady figures very prominently. John Turner was the attorney appointed for the "liverie and sesin of a dede made from John Farnam of a chapel and certain lands to the Lord Buckhurst," and Katherin Pickas hunted him up at the house of Stephen French in East Grinstead and asked him what he was up to. He told her he was there "to take possession for my Lorde of Buckhurste of the chapel of Brambletie and land which pertanied thereunto." Thereupon ensued, according to the lady, the following conversation:—

Mrs. Pycas: By what authoritie?

John Turner: By authoritie from John Farnam.

Mrs. Pycas: What hath he to do here; this matter is ended by the Quene, God save her highness.

John Turner: Yt makes no matter for the Quene.

Mrs. Pycas: No; Is my Lord of Buckhurst above the Quene?

John Turner: Yes, in this respect.

This was enough for my lady of Brambletye. Here was rank sedition; here was a false allegation against the Queen. Off she went with her six attendants and very soon made her way to Lewes, where she laid her version of the story before six Magistrates. They hardly cared to deal with it, so they drew up a statement of the facts and laid them before "the Right Honable and our verie good Lordes the Lordes of her Majestie's most honourable Privee Counselle." Katherin Pycas was supported in her version of what was said by her six attendants. John Turner's story was a very different one. He stated that when he went to make "liverie and seizin" of the chantry and chapel of Brambletye he and his men were set upon and beaten and had to flee. Katherin Pycas followed and on catching Turner up said, "What have you to do here, and will you show your authority?" He produced the deed and the lady thereupon claimed that her title to the chapel was a good one, so Turner asked her to prove it. So she would, "to his betters," she said, and as the lady was apparently

losing her temper Turner walked away, but she and her men, armed with staves and other weapons, followed him, she saying, "You Berkshire gentlemen, you think to make me stoop to you, but I will not." Eventually Turner got away, and so ended the episode. The Privy Council possibly smiled and put it all down to a woman's wilfulness, for nothing was done to the "seditious" attorney.

### A HIGH TREASON TRIAL.

A special commission of Oyer and Terminer, addressed to several Peers, Judges and Esquires of the County of Sussex, opened at East Grinstead on February 1st, 1586. Before the Court was brought William Shelley, of Michelgrove, who was charged with having, on September 15th, 1583, imagined and compassed the death of Queen Elizabeth, the subversion of the established religion and government and the procurement of an invasion of the Kingdom. It appeared that one, Charles Paget, who had been an exile for treason, came back secretly to England and Shelley met him in a wood at Patching, and there the pair "held traitorous intercourse touching the proposed invasion and the elevation of Mary Queen of Scots to the throne." It was occurrences of this character that no doubt helped to bring about the execution of that unhappy monarch a year later. Shelley was found guilty, committed to the Tower and later on brought to Westminster Hall for judgment. He was sentenced to death at Tyburn, but he escaped the headsman, his attainder was subsequently removed and when the order of Baronets was instituted in 1611 his son was the fifth person placed on that roll of honour.

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## THE CARE OF THE POOR.

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### CHAPTER XIX.

ABOUT the year 1631 there was great distress throughout England, and the Poor Law Commissioners were called on to make special reports to the King as to the state of their respective districts. Those acting for East Grinstead and the 17 other parishes forming the northern part of Pevensey Rape were Sir Henry Compton, of Brambletye, Sir Thos. Pelham, Sir Richard Michelbourne, Robert Morley and Anthony Fowle. They met monthly at Uckfield and gave instructions to the Overseers to make provision for the poor more plentifully. Contributions were raised from the more wealthy inhabitants and a "badger" was appointed to buy corn and sell it to the poor at one shilling per bushel less than it cost. They also got 30 boys apprenticed and found that, by reason of the flourishing state of the Sussex ironworks, there was ample employment for those who wanted it. They routed out the vagabonds, punished some of those who harboured them and closed up 16 alehouses where the poor were tempted to spend what little cash they had.

One hundred and fifty years later the cost of maintaining the poor of the parish of East Grinstead was exceedingly heavy. The money raised by assessment was, in

	£	s.	d.
1783 .....	1,482	19	6
1784 .....	1,374	14	9
1785 .....	1,532	0	6

and the average yearly amount spent exclusively on the maintenance of the poor was £1,349. 15s. 8d. The same return sets forth that the average yearly cost of entertainment for those who attended meetings relative to the poor was £1. 10s.

At a Vestry meeting held on November 14th, 1821, the Overseers reported that a number of paupers were

out of employ, that their numbers were daily increasing and that they were costing the parish nearly £20 a week. It was proposed to ballot off the unemployed poor, according to the rentals of the respective occupiers, each man to be employed for a certain number of days by such person and to be paid by him after the rate of 18d. per day to married men and 12d. per day to single men. At this date the amount of the poor rate was no less than £5,391. 2s., an average of 34s. per head per annum, 7s. more than the average for the whole country.

In December, 1832, another meeting was held in the town to consider the better employment of agricultural labourers. It was resolved that every ratepayer should employ his share of labourers at 10s. a week each, but the Magistrates considered this insufficient remuneration for the best workers, so local agriculturists finally agreed to pay 12s. per week and fine every ratepayer 10s. a week for each labourer not employed according to his proportion.

In 1847 the prices of provisions generally rose to a most prohibitive figure. Seconds flour advanced to 2s. 1½d. per gallon, and in May of that year there were no vegetables, except a few cabbages, to be had at any price in East Grinstead. The Queen herself issued an order that only seconds flour was to be used in all the Royal palaces and the strictest economy everywhere observed. It is on record that several of the East Grinstead gentry followed her example.

Distress became so acute in East Grinstead during the winter of 1852-3, that on February 1st the parishioners met in the Vestry and decided to supplement what was being done by the Guardians. Having regard to the extreme wetness of the season and the advanced prices of provisions generally, the meeting authorised the free distribution of 100 gallons of soup per week to the poor and this was continued until the warmer weather set in.

On August 30th, 1869, the Vestry decided for the first time to allow owners to compound for their rates at a discount of 25 per cent. Poor rates were authorised at

specially convened Vestry meetings, and the last occasion on which this was done was October 13th, 1892. Since that date the Overseers have exercised their powers and gone direct to the Magistrates without consulting the ratepayers. The last appointment of Overseers by the Vestry was on March 26th, 1894. Since then appointments have been made by the Urban Council.

An order was issued on September 5th, 1835, assigning three Guardians to the parish of East Grinstead. On September 10th, 1874, the Local Government Board was asked to increase the number to five and a schedule was attached to the appeal, showing the increase of population from 1841 to 1871. But the figures for the 1831 census were inserted instead of those for 1841 and the petition was ignored. In 1889 the ratepayers again appealed for an increase, and on June 26th of that year the Local Government Board issued an order dividing the old parish into two wards and assigning three Guardians to the Urban District and two to the Rural, and the first election under the new system took place in March, 1890.

One of the most important local law cases ever fought concerned the old Workhouse in the London Road. In 1747 Sir Thomas Webster was a considerable owner of property in East Grinstead and it was represented to him that the inhabitants of the parish "had come to a resolution to build a Workhouse for the better reception and employment of the poor." Sir Thomas was desirous of helping in this good work, so he leased an acre of land in the centre of the town to Elfred Staples, Benjamin Faulconer, Edward Green, Nathaniel Moore, John Smith and Thomas James, the last-named being the Vicar of the parish, that they might build thereon a Workhouse for the reception, employment, lodging and entertainment of all the poor people of East Grinstead. The lease was dated March 10th, 1747, and was for a term of 150 years, at a rental of one shilling a year. This appears to have been paid up to April 4th, 1776, on which date an endorsement was made on the lease by Thomas Bankin, an attorney residing in East Grinstead,

that he had "Received from East Grinstead parish, by Thomas Foster, the sum of one pound nine shillings, being 29 years' rent of the land let by lease." From that day the existence of the lease was absolutely forgotten for over 100 years. In due course a new Poor Law was passed, parishes were amalgamated for poor law purposes, and the Workhouse having been built in Glen Vue, the parishioners of East Grinstead, in Vestry assembled, authorised the sale of the old Workhouse, as well as the pest house on the Common, on February 14th, 1861, fully believing the former was their freehold property. It was at first proposed to sell the land in plots, but finally on October 9th, 1862, it was sold, as a whole, to Mr. Joseph Turner, the well-known land agent and auctioneer, who sold it to Mr. Robert Pink, but before the latter signed the conveyance he re-sold it to the late Mr. C. C. Tooke, to whom it was conveyed on December 16th, 1862. Subsequently Mr. Tooke sold back the present site of the Grosvenor Hall on May 25th, 1864, to Mr. Pink; in the same month he sold to the late Mr. James Bridgland the property now occupied by A. & C. Bridgland, Ltd., and on October 4th following he sold the remaining and centre plot to the late Mr. John Southey.

Meanwhile the Websters had lost touch with East Grinstead and disposed of all their local property. Sir Thomas Webster was succeeded by Sir Whistler Webster, who was M.P. for East Grinstead. He left his real estate to his brother Godfrey and then came several Sir Godfreys in succession. The estate finally passed into the hands of Lady Webster, who conveyed it to her son, Sir Augustus Webster, on March 21st, 1886. It was about this time that the old lease turned up. By this time the land had had valuable buildings erected on it and was of the estimated value of £12,000. Sir Augustus demanded his shilling, payment was refused, so an action was brought to recover this sum, but in reality to get a declaration that a presumed freehold was only a leasehold expiring in 1897. The case was tried in May, 1887, before Mr. Justice Kay, and after a very lengthy hearing

judgment was given for the defendants on the ground that the lease was bad *ab initio*.

May 16th, 1887, will not be readily forgotten. A special edition of the *East Grinstead Observer* was issued giving the result, and scenes of extraordinary excitement were witnessed in East Grinstead. "As the news spread," says a newspaper account, "people shouted, danced, shook each other's hands and alternately laughed and cried for joy." Flags and bunting of every kind hung from numerous windows; favours of white and blue ribbon were distributed by hundreds; places of business were closed; and the streets became crowded with people. Over 1,000 persons gathered at the station to meet the defendants on their arrival; their carriage was drawn to the town by the Fire Brigade; the Town Band led the way, and congratulatory speeches were delivered in the presence of 3,000 listeners. The scenes of excitement continued until long after midnight. To show his disapproval of the Band taking part in such a demonstration the late Mr. C. H. Gatty, J.P., of Felbridge Place, resigned his presidency and withdrew all support from the Band for several years.

The parishes at present forming the East Grinstead Union, together with Lingfield in Surrey, were united for the purposes of Poor Law administration in the year 1835, but it was not until 1860 that they opened the existing Workhouse in Glen Vue for their joint use. As a result of the Local Government Act of 1894, the parish of Lingfield was eventually transferred to Godstone Union, wholly in its own county of Surrey. By the same Act was brought into being the Rural District Council, the members of which, together with five elected for the urban parish of East Grinstead, form the existing Board of Guardians. Of the Rural Council Mr. W. V. K. Stenning, J.P., of Halsford, was co-opted as the first Chairman at the opening meeting held on January 3rd, 1895. To him succeeded, on May 5th, 1898, Mr. Job Luxford, of Forest Row, an elected member, who held the position seven years and had the honour of being



the first *ex-officio* Justice of the Peace to act on the local Bench of Magistrates. He was followed, in 1905, by Mr. J. Waters, of Hartfield. The Clerkship to both authorities was for many years held by Mr. W. A. Head, who resigned in November, 1902, and was succeeded by his partner, Mr. F. S. White, as Clerk to the Rural Council and Mr. Alan Huggett as Clerk to the Guardians. The present Chairman of the Board of Guardians is Mr. John Longley, of Turners Hill, who succeeded the Rev. C. D. Nix, of Worth. Prior to his term of office the position was held for several years by Mr. W. V. K. Stenning, and his predecessor was the late Mr. Bernard Hale, J.P., who presided over the Board for a very long period. He bought and presented to the Union the piece of land adjoining the railway and now used as a stone depôt.

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## PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

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### CHAPTER XX.

THE present excellent condition of the town of East Grinstead has been brought about very gradually, most new proposals meeting at first with opposition and only becoming permanent institutions after most persistent efforts. Details are appended of the inception of schemes which are now part of our ordinary life and government.

#### THE LOCAL BOARD AND URBAN COUNCIL.

The agitation for the formation of East Grinstead into an urban district took definite shape in the year 1881, when a Committee, with Mr. W. V. K. Stenning as its chairman, was formed to carry the project through. The promoters met with more than one serious rebuff. The first Local Government inquiry was held on February 28th, 1882, and the opposition to the scheme from all outside the town was tremendous. It was at first proposed that the area should be that already in existence for lighting purposes, having a radius boundary of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles from the Parish Church tower. In the end the Local Government Board positively refused the application. But the Committee, though rebuffed, were not disheartened. They amended their proposals, renewed their application, and on February 2nd in the following year a second inquiry was held. The applicants proposed to relieve Forest Row of all liability in regard to the drainage rate, and not to include the village in the urban district. The residents there at once withdrew opposition and the chief opponents left were mainly the proprietors of the parks and agricultural land which it was sought to include in the Local Board area. Their opposition was futile, and finally, on March 25th, 1884, the desired sanction was given by the Local Government Board,

though they had intimated ten months previously that the scheme would be approved.

At the first election no fewer than 61 candidates were put forward, and though many withdrew, yet 34 finally competed for the 12 seats.

At the first meeting of the Board on August 30th, 1884, the Rev. C. W. P. Crawford was elected chairman without opposition, and he held this office throughout the whole of the Board's existence. The earlier meetings were often the occasions of stormy scenes, but the Chairman's tact in time led to smoothness of working, and the Local Board served its purpose and did a good public work.

Mr. Hastie, the first clerk and solicitor, gave good advice to friend and foe alike, and when two years later the exigencies of his London business compelled him to retire, his partner, the late Mr. H. S. Little, was elected to succeed him, and on his death Mr. E. P. Whitley Hughes stepped into the breach.

First a Mr. Brown and then a Mr. Gordon held the position of surveyor, but the Board never got on well with the holder of that particular office until Mr. W. W. Gale was appointed. When he came, the late Mr. G. Ranger, who died on June 5th, 1891, was relieved of the rate collectorship and for the sake of economy the offices of surveyor, sanitary inspector and rate collector were amalgamated. The combination of these multifarious duties was not found to work well and in time the offices were again divided. Mr. S. J. Huggett became the Rate Collector and Mr. R. Wilds succeeded Mr. Gale as Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances. The present holder of the latter position is Mr. W. E. Woollam. The post of Medical Officer of Health was held first by Mr. G. Covey and then by Mr. P. E. Wallis.

The Board came to an end in order to give place to an Urban Council in December, 1894, and during the decade which covered its existence the town in all its public thoroughfares was well lighted; High Street and London Road paved, channelled and properly metalled; the

drainage very largely extended; owners of some half-dozen private roads compelled to place them in such a state of repair as to make them fit to be taken over by the public authority; street watering adopted and the collection of house refuse inaugurated. As a mark of their appreciation of his conduct of business the members of the Board, before they went out of office, entertained their Chairman at a complimentary banquet on December 5th, 1894.

The first Urban Council election, at which plurality of voting was for the first time missing, took place on December 17th, 1894, and the good work done by the Local Board has been well continued by the existing authority. The Rev. C. W. Payne Crawford was continued in the chair, and occupied the post until he retired from public work in April, 1897. Mr. Evelyn A. Head, who had for years been an active worker in the cause of local government and solicitor to the original promoters of the Local Board, then got a deserved reward in being elected to the chair. The office has since been held by Mr. T. J. P. Hartigan, Mr. W. Milburn (Brockhurst), Mr. R. Chignell (Stoneleigh), Mr. C. H. Everard (Newlands) and Mr. J. Rice. The last-named was the first representative of the trading community to attain the honour and thereby become an *ex-officio* Justice of the Peace for the county.

### STREET WATERING.

The plan of watering the streets during the summer months was first adopted in East Grinstead in 1863, when the heat was very oppressive, and the dust so bad that tradesmen were quite unable to have shop doors or windows open. It was thought that a supply of water might be obtained from a disused well, situated partly under the house then occupied by Mr. Bailye, in the Middle Row. This well, in former years, had a pump fitted to it, and was used by Lord De la Warr's tenants in the High Street, but it got very much out of repair and neglected, and as no subscriptions were forthcoming for its restoration it was closed about the year 1840. The

views of the principal tradesmen of the town were obtained in 1863 as to the advisability of watering the High Street and part of the London Road, and at a public meeting on May 1st a committee was formed to consider the matter, consisting of the Vicar (the Rev. J. N. Harward), Mr. T. R. Burt, Mr. E. Wilkinson, Mr. T. J. Palmer, Mr. G. Shepard, Mr. Meades and Mr. T. Cramp. Proposals were submitted by Mr. J. Tooth, and the Committee placed the work in his hands. Permission was obtained from Lord De la Warr's agent to re-open and examine the well mentioned, and it was found that the sides had fallen in. When the well was dug it was six feet in diameter, but the bottom was now found to have widened in diameter to 14 feet. There was no water in the well. It was decided to remove all stones and rubbish, have the sides made secure and dig the well a few feet deeper, on the chance of striking a fresh inlet of water. The well was accordingly sunk five feet more and an abundant supply of water secured, rising to a height of 12 feet. A brass pump, with a standpipe at the top fitted with two nozzles (one for pails and the other for the water barrow), was then erected, and enclosed on three sides by walls of brick and cement, with an ornamental cast-iron railing. There were two accidents while the work was in progress, Mr. Thomas Criswell being badly injured about the legs and Mr. Simmonds (who is still alive to tell the tale) getting his shoulders hurt. When the well was finished and in proper working order it proved a great boon to the High Street residents, as hitherto they had had to fetch their water in a barrel fixed on a wooden frame, and drawn by a horse, from a spring situated beyond the Prince of Wales Inn, at Baldwins Hill. For the purpose of street watering the Committee bought a galvanised hand-barrow, capable of holding 100 gallons, and a man named Edward Geer undertook the task at the rate of 6d. per hour. This went on for two summers, but for want of sufficient subscriptions the practice was then discontinued and the water barrow sold, the sum of one guinea, which it realised, being given to the funds of the Cottage Hospital. The pump, however, continued to be

used by the inhabitants until Mr. Bailye built the present premises, now occupied by Mr. Alex. Johnson, over the site, when the pump, iron railing, &c., were removed in October, 1877, by the parish authorities to the Union "for safe custody." The refusal of the Rural Sanitary Authority, which then controlled the town, to continue the watering was one of the things that helped on the agitation for the formation of a Local Board.

### THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

The universal use of cesspools in East Grinstead was abandoned very many years ago, but the drainage system adopted was an extremely crude and dangerous one. At the centre of the town there was a brick drain on each side of the road, receiving both surface water and sewage. These drains united in one sewer, which emptied itself into the Swan Mead, irrigating this large meadow, which was close to the town and extended from the present Police Station in West Street, across Queen's Road and Glen Vue to the Railway Hotel. It then flowed towards a pond, the outfall passed into an open ditch, which in course of time also received drainage from cottages in Glen Vue, two or three pigstyes, the occasional overflow of the Workhouse cesspools and the irrigation from a field near the present Cemetery, over which a drain taking the sewage from the houses in Chapel Lane, now West Street, emptied itself. This accumulation found its way along the stream and entered the Medway at Old Mill Bridge. Another drain commenced at the back of the Church, passed through Brewer's or Brewhouse Lane, and emptied itself on to a field near the Hermitage. A third commenced in the garden at the back of the Swan, receiving the sewage from several houses in that neighbourhood. This was carried to a cesspool built in an old stone pit at the back of Chapel Lane and the overflow passed into a cleft in the rocks and disappeared. The Rocks district at the north entrance of the town was drained by another sewer emptying into the Dean cherry garden. The

Railway sewage and that from a dozen houses near the old station was taken along the line towards Tunbridge Wells until it ultimately disappeared in a cleft in the rocks. There were three other minor sections, all equally primitive and dangerous. Each person disposed of his refuse just as it seemed him best, without reference to any law save that of gravitation.

Things had got so bad by 1853 that on October 27th of that year Mr. C. R. Duplex was appointed Nuisance Inspector, but he was unable to do anything. The first Sewage Authority for the town was appointed on September 18th, 1866, but this also was able to do very little. On June 25th, 1875, a Parochial Committee, consisting of Messrs. W. V. K. Stenning (the first public office he ever held), C. Absalom and T. Cramp, were appointed to act in conjunction with the Board of Guardians in carrying out a drainage system for the town, which was by this time in a fearful condition. The hollow in the fork formed by the junction of Ship and West Streets was nothing but a large pond of reeking sewage; the whole of the Swan Mead, where Queen's Road and Glen Vue now stand, was merely a receptacle for filth; while on the other side of the town the Moat fields were in almost as bad a condition and typhoid fever was rampant. The Committee first endeavoured to get land for a sewage farm in the valley between East Grinstead and Forest Row, but the opposition was so powerful that they were compelled to look elsewhere, and eventually the present site of 30 acres in the parish of Lingfield was purchased. Five loans, altogether amounting to £13,000, were raised during 1879, and necessary extensions caused a further expenditure of £2,630 before the end of 1882. The pumping engine was fixed in May, 1879, and the bulk of the connections were made with the farm during 1880. The broad irrigation system of treatment was continued most efficiently until 1903, when the bacteria system was introduced with even more satisfactory results.

## THE BURIAL BOARD AND CEMETERY.

The churchyard of East Grinstead was closed for future burials on July 1st, 1866, except in existing vaults, and in them it was ordered that each coffin should be embedded in charcoal. On September 9th of the previous year the Home Secretary had given notice of his intention to close the churchyard, and on September 22nd the Vestry decided to purchase from Earl De la Warr a portion of the "Green Field" at £100 an acre for use as a cemetery. The negotiations with his Lordship, however, fell through, and on July 16th, 1866, the present cemetery site was purchased from Mr. W. Pearless at £200 per acre. It was consecrated by Bishop Trower on February 3rd, 1869. The first burial therein was that of Mr. William East on February 6th, 1869. The lowest number of burials in any one year since has been 47 in 1889 and the highest 79 in 1893. The Burial Board was formed in 1867, and at its first meeting on July 11th, Mr. T. R. Burt was elected chairman and Mr. A. Hastie clerk. Subsequently the Rev. C. W. Payne Crawford became chairman and remained so until the extinction of the Board. It existed for nearly 30 years, the last election of members to it by the Vestry taking place on July 26th, 1894. The duties were then transferred to the Urban Council. The Mortuary at the Cemetery was added in 1879.

## TREE PLANTING.

In the year 1874 it was thought that it would be a great improvement to the old town to plant some lime trees on the High Street slope, the houses facing which at that time belonged to Earl De la Warr. The suggestion had been made by the Vicar to Mr. John Tooth, who had an interview with Lord De la Warr's steward, and he was granted permission to plant the trees, providing the tenants gave their consent to the proposal. All of them fell in with the suggestion with the exception of Mr. E. Gatland (who owned the premises now tenanted



by Mr. J. H. Honeycombe), Mr. Thos. Steer (who lived where Mr. F. C. Watford's house now is) and Mr. Joseph Sheppard (whose premises now form the shop of Messrs. Brooker Bros.). The trees were planted at the expense of the late Mr. W. A. Head and Mr. Tooth, and are flourishing to this day, being now taken care of by the Urban Council. The refusal of the three gentlemen above named to allow the trees to be planted in front of their premises accounts for two of the gaps in the row of greenery which so charmingly sets off our quaint and handsome old High-street during the summer months, the space in front of Messrs. Brooker Bros. having been filled up at a later period.

### FAIRS AND MARKETS.

The date of the establishment of East Grinstead Fair was July 16th, 1247. The following is a translation of an entry in quaint and very abbreviated Latin, which appears in a Chancery Charter Roll of this date:—

The King, &c. Know ye that we have granted and by this our charter have confirmed to our trusty and beloved Peter de Sabaudia and his heirs that his market, which was accustomed to be held every week in his Manor of Grenested, henceforth shall be held every week on Monday in the said manor. We have granted also to Peter that he and his heirs may have a fair in his aforesaid Manor of Grenestede every year, to last for two days, that is to say on the eve and day of St. James the Apostle, unless that market and fair should be to the hurt of the neighbouring markets and neighbouring fairs. Whereas we will, &c.

W. Bishop of Salisbury.  
S. de Monte Forti, Earl of Leicester.  
John de Lexinton.  
William de Vesey.  
Paulinus Peyvere.  
William de Say.  
Robert de Musegros.  
William de Bello Monte.  
Robert le Norreys.  
And others being witnesses.

Given by our hand at Clarendon on the 16th day of July in the 31st year of our reign.

The day of holding the market would seem, for some reason, to have been changed from Monday to Sunday,

for in a Chancery Close Roll of 1285, the 13th year of the reign of Edward I., appears the following entry, also in abbreviated Latin:—

Whereas the King wills that his market, which the King's most dear mother, Eleanor, Queen of England, has in dower, to be held in the town of Grenestede on Sunday, shall henceforth be held on Saturday, the Sheriff of Sussex is commanded that he do publicly cause that market henceforth to be held on Saturday, to be proclaimed in every market town of the county aforesaid.

Witness as above.

Witness the King at Neubury on the 9th day of Jan.

The dates were frequently changed. The "Travellers' Almanack" for 1697 notes that two fairs are held at East Grinstead, viz., on the 16th of April and 25th of September, but in 1766, according to the "Youths' Faithful Monitor" for that year, the dates were the 13th of July and the 11th of December. Both books mention that Thursday was then, as now, the market day. According to the diary of Thomas Marchant in 1716 a fair took place at East Grinstead on the 30th of November.

The 13th of July fair has not been held since 1816. In this year the spring and summer fairs were trifling events, but the winter fair was one of great importance. In 1826 a sum of £2. 16s. 6d. was collected for the payment of special constables and watchmen during the fair. The dates of the two fairs now are April 21st and December 11th.

In years gone by the fair lasted far beyond the authorised day. In 1848 it began on Monday, December 11th, and a local record of Thursday, the 14th, says: "The fair not done yet; from the testimony of all there appears to have been more dissipation this year than at any preceding fair." It was not until December, 1875, that the authorities succeeded in limiting it to the one day allowed by the charter.

The first Fat Stock Show ever held in East Grinstead took place on December 14th, 1876. After being allowed to lapse for some years the stock market was re-established on November 13th, 1884, and has since flourished exceedingly.

## THE FIRE BRIGADE.

The first Fire Brigade was formed in East Grinstead in the year 1863. Long prior to this time the town had possessed two fire engines, which were kept in the west room of the church under the belfry. At a Vestry meeting held on February 6th, 1852, it was resolved that the belfry of the Parish Church was "an inconvenient and improper depository" for the parish fire engines, and the parishioners decided to request Lord De la Warr to appropriate some building for their safe custody. But his Lordship apparently took no heed of the request, for the engines were still in the belfry more than ten years later. These "engines" were very primitive machines indeed. The pumps were mounted on small open trolleys drawn by hand, and when a serious fire broke out on November 9th, 1863, at Messrs. Stenning and Sons' timber yard, then situate in the field now occupied by Buckhurst House and grounds belonging to Mrs. Thompson, they were found to be of very little use. The pumps were not in working order, the supply of hose was very scanty and what there was was leaky. The need of some change was evident. A public meeting was held, and the following gentlemen were appointed the first Fire Brigade Committee: Rev. J. N. Harward (who died a few days later), Mr. G. Head (chairman), Mr. A. Hastie, Mr. T. R. Burt, Mr. C. Absalom, Mr. C. Sawyer, Mr. H. Gatland, Mr. William Head (the then landlord of the Crown Hotel), Mr. William Stenning and Mr. E. Steer, sen. Their first work was to have the engine pumps mounted on carriages to be drawn by horses and make the vehicles such that twelve or fourteen firemen could also ride on them. This work of re-construction was carried out within three months by Mr. John Tooth at a cost of £95. A Fire Brigade was organised and its first members were: Edward Steer (the late), captain; John Tooth, engineer; James Cooper, R. Puddicombe, R. Cheal, Wm. Tooth, F. F. Payne, George Hills, William H. Steer (who subsequently became Captain and was accidentally killed

on the railway at Grange Road Station on January 23rd, 1895), R. West, J. Hayward and H. Skinner, firemen. One of the engines was placed at Forest Row and a separate Brigade formed there. The two sections met to test the engines at Moat pond and they were found to act admirably. Of course, the completion of the work and the formation of a Brigade had to be celebrated by a dinner at the Crown Hotel. Helmets, boots and tunics were provided for the firemen out of voluntary subscriptions collected in the neighbourhood. The first fire the Brigade was called to was at Wilderwick, where two large haystacks were burnt, but some stables close by were saved.

The re-built engine was too large to go back to the church tower and it was for a time kept in a shed in the Crown yard; then it was removed to the Police Station; and when the late Mr. James Cooper became captain of the Brigade he found a place for it at the rear of his premises in the High Street. Later the premises now used by the Central Meat Company were specially built as a Fire Brigade Station by the late Mr. A. Hastie, and finally the engine found a habitation at the present building adjoining Mr. Heasman's corn stores. The existing engine was purchased in 1884 with subscriptions collected by Mr. A. H. Hastie, and its reception in the town on October 21st of that year was the occasion of great public rejoicing.

Up to March 25th, 1895, the affairs of the Brigade were managed by a Committee elected by the Vestry, and since that date the Brigade has been under the control of the Urban Council. Mr. Evelyn A. Head and Mr. H. Young have acted as Captains during that period.

## THE COUNTY COURT.

The first County Court was held in East Grinstead on Wednesday, April 28th, 1847, when Judge Furner commenced monthly sittings at the Dorset Arms Hotel. In 1858, owing to the small amount of business, the Judge, despite a memorial to the contrary, abandoned monthly sittings and held his Court but six times in

each year. This remained the custom until 1904, when Judge Scully instituted a system which gives five Court days to East Grinstead in one year and six in the next. The Court was held at the Dorset Arms until Thompson's corn store was turned into a Court House, when the sittings were transferred to the more commodious building and continued there after its conversion into the Public Hall. Then for a time the Police Court was utilised and finally the Queen's Hall came into use. Judge Furner, when first appointed, was a solicitor, and almost the only member of this branch of the legal profession who secured such an appointment. He got it by virtue of being Judge of the "Court of Requests" or "Court of Conscience" at Brighton, a civil court held in the larger centres for the summary recovery of debts under 40s. and which were superseded by the County Courts. Judge Furner afterwards qualified as a barrister. He remained in office for 30 years, the late Mr. Martineau, one of the most able County Court judges ever appointed, coming to East Grinstead as Judge for the first time on October 24th, 1877. He died on September 30th, 1903, and Judge Scully, a son-in-law of the late Speaker of the House of Commons (now Lord Selby), entered on his duties on November 1st of that year. The duties of High Bailiff were at first performed by the late Mr. Lewis, of Lewes. Mr. T. Cramp was appointed to this now obsolete office on March 25th, 1855, and resigned it in July, 1891, a month before his death. The office was then amalgamated with that of Registrar. The first Clerk to the Court was the late Mr. Edgar Blaker, of Lewes, with the late Mr. William Pearlless as his assistant. The latter in time became the first Registrar and he was succeeded, in 1873, by his son, Mr. J. R. Pearlless, who still occupies the position.

### THE POST OFFICE.

In the early days the Post Offices of the kingdom were open on Sundays the same as week-days, but in 1846 there was an agitation set afoot in the town, and the

Postmaster-General acceded to a very numerous signed petition and allowed the East Grinstead office to be closed from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Four years later all the Post Offices of the country were entirely closed on Sundays by order of Parliament, but the innovation caused such intense excitement throughout the country that the order was soon rescinded, and the East Grinstead office was only entirely closed from Sunday, June 23rd, to Sunday, August 25th. Mr. T. J. Palmer, for so many years postmaster, was succeeded in that position by Mr. J. Hayward on January 1st, 1870. Subsequent holders of the office have been Mr. T. Isley, Mr. R. S. Whitehead and Mr. W. Cleaver. The first postage stamps were issued in May, 1840. The first telegrams were received in East Grinstead on September 21st, 1870, and the first halfpenny postage operated on October 1st following.

The Post Office was originally at Mr. W. H. Dixon's shop in the High Street, then at the corner now occupied by Lloyds Bank and Mr. F. Maplesden's printing works, the present commodious premises being opened by the Duke of Norfolk, then Postmaster-General, on September 16th, 1896. The day was one of public festivities and Miss Head, daughter of Mr. Evelyn A. Head, the then Chairman of the Urban Council, had the honour of posting the first letter at the new premises.

### EAST GRINSTEAD CRICKET.

So far as the memory of living men runs, and apparently much further back too, East Grinstead has enjoyed throughout Sussex, Surrey and Kent a continuous and well-merited reputation for cricketing prowess of a high order. When it first acquired this celebrity in our great national game I cannot pretend to say, but certain it is that for many generations cricket has been indigenous in the town and in a lesser degree in the district, of which the town naturally formed a convenient central arena. Even now, natives who have passed their three score years and ten talk, and talk credibly too, of their feats, as boys, on local fields and of the feats of

their fathers before them. Arrangements may have been primitive, fixtures few, grounds rough and the pavilion a luxury non-existent and undreamt of, but though doubtless in cricket, even beyond other sports, the *laudator temporis acti* is a person to be seriously reckoned with, yet we may none the less accept the established fact that our local champions did inspire terror among the surrounding tribes, at least 70 and 80 years ago. Precise authentic records of these prehistoric battles seem difficult now to collect and classify, but amongst other slight references to old local cricket we have distinct notice of an important match played in the town in 1835; the *venue* at that date being probably either the present Play Field (fronting the Council Schools) or the field on East Grinstead Common, now the Lingfield Road Recreation Ground, for both seem to have been used in old days, though soon after 1840, if not before, the Chequer Mead, behind the Crown Inn, was also in use, and was probably the scene of a grand match on July 21st, 1845, when a team came up by coach from Lewes to try conclusions with an East Grinstead eleven. Be this as it may, and doubtless as an outcome of the cricket spirit already prevailing in the town, the East Grinstead Cricket Club as it now exists was founded in 1857, the then Vicar (the Rev. J. N. Harward, M.A.), with his sons and various members of the Hastie, Head, Pearless and Stenning families, being prominent among its original supporters, and the Chequer Mead came into regular use as the head quarters of the newly-founded club. There, on September 20th, 1864, eighteen of East Grinstead and District defied and played the County eleven, sustaining, however, a signal defeat, and about seven years later a similar match was played with a not dissimilar result.

From the Chequer Mead the club migrated back again, about 1878, to the field on the Common, but this ground was inconveniently placed and never enjoyed the same popularity as the Chequer Mead; besides which troubles arose owing to public footpaths crossing the field

inconveniently near to the pitch and making it impossible to keep the premises in good order, so, after a troublous tenure of some 10 years' duration, the club finally abandoned the Common about 1889.

In July, 1890, Reginald, Earl De la Warr, announced that this field would be sold by public auction, but the general outcry against interference with rights so long exercised was such that the owner countermanded the sale and formally handed over the field to the care of the Local Board, in whose successors it now remains perpetually vested.

Meanwhile the pretty Chequer Mead, the scene of so many cricket exploits in past days, had also become no longer available for cricket, and indeed soon became seamed with new roads and entirely covered with houses, so that the next generation will find it hard to picture such world-famed bowlers as Lilywhite and Southerton, and such famous batsmen as H. Charlwood and the Cotterills, playing on this site not so many years ago against our undaunted local giants, among whom it would be fairly safe to wager, without turning to the score sheet, that there would be found some or all of such names as Draper, Reynolds, Simmonds, Marchant, Hooker, Payne, Head, Hoare, Moor and others, who helped to make East Grinstead cricket famous in their day, just as their successors, G. H. Lynn, Arthur Huggett, Alfred and Wm. Payne, H. Tebay, J. Charlwood, H. Gibb and others of more modern days have done by appearing in the ranks of the Sussex County XI.

To return to plain facts, the Club, having left the Common, turned in their hour of need to Mr. C. C. Tooke and rented from him the present small, but excellent, cricket field in West Street, then an outlying strip of the Hurst-an-Clays Estate, and once, as it seems, a cornfield. This satisfactory arrangement was largely due to the good offices of Mr. P. E. Wallis, then, and for many years previously, a prominent member of the Club, as also to the aid of Mr. J. Southey, always an energetic supporter of local cricket till his death in 1899.



The new ground was opened on May 26th, 1890, and for several years, under the management of Mr. R. P. Crawford (hon. secretary) and an able committee, cricket flourished exceedingly on the new ground and the matches were once more well attended by the town and prominent residents from round about. The wickets, provided by Alfred Payne, the groundman and an old county player, were in high favour far and wide, and were justly eulogised by such famous cricketers as Hayward, Brockwell and Lockwood, of Surrey, Mr. F. B. Whitfeld, Mr. H. Whitfeld, W. Humphreys, Tate and Marlow, of Sussex, Mr. A. J. Webbe, of Middlesex, Mr. F. Marchant and Mr. G. Weigall, of Kent, Mr. H. Leveson-Gower, of Oxford fame, Mr. W. L. Murdoch, the great Australian, and others too numerous to recall, who have played in modern times on the West Street ground and delighted spectators with their prowess.

On July 21st and 22nd, 1896, a bazaar, organised by the Hon. Secretary of the Club and opened on successive days by Lady Evelyn Goschen, wife of Mr. G. J. Goschen, Member for the East Grinstead Division, and Sir Edward Blount, of Imberhorne, was held on the ground and brilliantly patronised by the neighbourhood generally.

The bazaar yielded the handsome net profit of £465, and this sum was handed over to a body of seven trustees, who in November of the same year purchased the freehold of the field from Mrs. Henry Padwick, daughter of Mr. C. C. Tooke, for £1,000, the balance of the purchase money being raised by a mortgage on the premises for £600.

The trustees first appointed were Mr. Henry Blount, D.L., and Mr. Robert P. Crawford (then respectively president and hon. secretary of the club), Mr. C. H. Everard, M.A., Mr. F. Maplesden, Mr. J. Southey, Mr. P. E. Wallis, M.R.C.S., and Mr. T. S. Whitfeld, and in them and their successors is vested the freehold of a field, as conveniently placed as it is, in respect of its outlook over distant Ashdown Forest, delightfully situated. Soon after the purchase of the ground in

November, 1896, Mr. R. P. Crawford resigned the honorary secretaryship of the Club, and during the last 10 years this office has been filled by various members, including Mr. F. Maplesden and Mr. E. T. Berry.

In 1901 an excellent pavilion, well worthy of the ground, was added to the general amenities of the cricket field, at a cost of £300, largely by the exertions of Mr. F. S. White, then captain of the Club.

Cricket, we fear, since the advent of golf, does not hold the same place as formerly in local affection, or indeed in the country generally, but in East Grinstead its roots struck deep, and with such famous traditions behind it, of skill and knowledge of the game, unusual in country towns, the Club will never allow itself, even in days of partial eclipse, to despond or to forget the palmy days of its pre-eminence among all surrounding clubs.

### COTTAGE HOSPITALS.

East Grinstead was the fourth place in the British Islands to boast of a cottage hospital for the reception of those suffering from accident or illness not easily treated in their own homes. The first of the kind was opened at Cranleigh, in Surrey, in 1859, and the little seed planted there has since borne fruit throughout the length and breadth of the land. The great cities and towns had long had their hospitals and dispensaries, but in the large tracts of country between these centres of civilisation there was, prior to the year stated, no refuge to which poor creatures suffering from accident could be taken but the Union Workhouse. Fowey followed the example of Cranleigh a year later, and in 1861 the third institution of the kind sprang into existence at Bourton-on-the-Water.

The Rev. C. W. Payne Crawford was then curate there, and he rendered very material assistance to its energetic surgeon and founder, Mr. J. Moore. On his return to East Grinstead he was able to render similar aid to Mr. J. H. Rogers, then assistant warden and afterwards warden of Sackville College. Mr. Rogers then

lived at Green Hedges, where Mr. R. W. Pearless now resides, and he hired the cottage in the lane immediately opposite his own residence. It was, and still is, a delightfully situated cottage, its charming garden being well bedecked with beautiful blooms and shrubs, the cultivation of which was a great hobby with the doctor. At his own expense he added a spacious room at the back of the house, amply lighted by two large windows. He was materially helped by local residents, one lady supplying the entire furniture of a room, another person giving all the medicinal and surgical appliances, and others helping in various ways. It was opened in 1863 and gave accommodation for seven patients. For a short time Mr. Rogers carried it on almost entirely at his own expense, but others being desirous of helping, he accepted subscriptions and it was thus maintained until 1874. Its first balance sheet was issued for 1865, in which year 34 cases were beneficially treated. The donations and subscriptions were £75. 12s. 6d., the payments by patients £33. 12s. and the collecting box at the hospital realised £2. 7s. 6d., a total income of £111. 12s., not quite sufficient to meet all outgoings. Food, wine, medicine, appliances, fuel, &c., cost £86. 7s. 4d., the nursing staff £17; rates, insurance, furniture and other sundries £12. 5s. 5d. This was hardly a typical year, for the hospital accumulated considerable funds, having nearly £370 to its credit when it was closed in 1874.

The need of such an institution soon again became apparent. The late Mr. C. H. Gatty took an interest in the matter and in 1881 built a splendid cottage hospital in the Moat Road. This he completely furnished and equipped even to the provision of surgical instruments, but because people grew impatient and ventured, both publicly and privately, to ask him when he proposed to open it he took offence, removed the equipment and finally sold the property to Mr. John Betchley. East Grinstead remained for seven years, after Mr. Gatty built his, without the benefits of a cottage hospital, but in 1887 the late Mrs. Oswald Smith, of Hammerwood, took the matter up and hired the premises now known as

Lansdowne House, then only just completed. They were opened as a hospital on January 11th, 1888. Mrs. Smith formed a ladies' committee, consisting of herself, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Covey and Miss Wallis. Feeling, however, that it was not right to keep the hospital entirely in their own hands, Mr. and Mrs. Smith decided, in May of the same year, to make it known that they would be willing to receive subscriptions and hand the hospital over to a properly appointed committee. In July a public meeting was held, presided over by the late Mr. H. R. Freshfield, and the first meeting of subscribers was held in the following November. It was then announced that the cost of maintaining the hospital would be about £300 a year. On January 8th, 1889, the first meeting of the properly appointed committee was held. That meeting was attended by Mrs. Smith and her eldest son, Mr. Guy Smith, and they formally handed over to the committee the possession and care of the hospital. At the same time Mrs. Smith handed them the sum of £50 given by the late Mr. Bernard Hale, and on behalf of herself and family guaranteed handsome yearly subscriptions. At that same meeting Mr. H. A. Perkins was appointed to the secretaryship and he has held the appointment ever since. The Trustees then elected were Messrs. H. Jeddere-Fisher, B. G. O. Smith and W. V. K. Stenning, and they still hold office. On February 9th, 1900, the sum of £374. 6s. 9d., the balance of funds remaining from the original cottage hospital started by Mr. Rogers, was handed over to these Trustees. The work went on smoothly and beneficially until 1892, when, owing to the lamentable failure of Head's Bank, the hospital had to face an initial loss of £473. 5s. That was very unfortunate for the hospital, as in June the premises were thrown into the market for sale, and the committee felt it was their duty and for the advantage of the hospital to purchase the property, which they did at a cost of £675 and £25 legal expenses. In consequence of the loss by Head's Bank failure the committee had to make a special appeal for £300, and the response was

so liberal that £347. 3s. 6d. came in. Of that sum Mr. Oswald Smith gave £100. The committee sold out the Consols standing in the Trustees' names to the extent of £364. 4s. 6d., making a total of £711. 8s., as compared with £700 which the premises cost. Subsequently dividends were received out of the bank's assets amounting to £116. 11s. 4d., and that, added to the result of the special appeal, meant a total loss owing to the bank failure of only £9. 10s. 2d. From 1892 to 1899 the hospital went on quietly with its work. In the latter year, at the annual meeting, the following resolution was moved by Mr. C. Wright Edwards (one of the medical staff, who then had Dr. Poynder's practice) and unanimously adopted:—"That the meeting recommends the committee to take steps to consider the advisability of making improvements and alterations in the hospital accommodation." A sub-committee was appointed to seek an available site for a new hospital, with the result that a piece of land in Imberhorne Lane was purchased for £275.

The endeavours to erect a hospital on that site were much quickened by Mr. T. H. W. Buckley's liberal offer of a sum of £250 towards the building in memory of his mother. In July, 1900, the committee endeavoured to get out plans for a building to cost not more than £3,000, but after making most careful inquiries and visiting other hospitals the sub-committee found that at least £4,200 would be required to erect a hospital replete with necessary modern requirements. An appeal was accordingly issued on January 8th, 1901. Eight days later it came to the knowledge of the Secretary that the Holiday Home in Queen's Road was likely to come into the market. This place was erected, and for some years carried on, as a coffee tavern, known as the Elephant's Head, after the crest of Mr. O. A. Smith. Then it was let to the Ragged School Union, and by that body opened as a holiday home on September 2nd, 1885.

Certain communications passed between Mr. Oswald Smith, the owner of that property, and the Rev. C. C. Woodland (chairman of the Hospital Committee), with

the result that Mr. Smith offered the holiday home and the land surrounding it absolutely free of cost for the purposes of a hospital. At that time the whole country was being moved to erect memorials to the late Queen Victoria, and the committee thought it a grand opportunity to associate such a memorial with the new hospital, and at a public meeting held on March 28th it was unanimously decided that the memorial to Queen Victoria should take the form of a new cottage hospital, and that Mr. Smith's munificent offer should be gratefully accepted.

Plans for altering the building were got out by Mr. H. E. Mathews, Mr. H. Young's tender to do the work for £2,345 was accepted, and in September, 1901, the work was commenced. In May, 1902, Mr. Abe Bailey, of Yewhurst, gave £1,000 in memory of his late wife, and this practically freed the committee from serious financial worry. The land in Imberhorne Lane was subsequently sold to Mr. Alan Stenning, from whom it had originally been bought, and the old hospital in London Road to Mr. W. H. Hills. The total cost of adapting the Queen's Road "cottage hospital" and contingent expenses came to £3,276, and after it was paid for nearly £300 remained in hand, a result not often achieved in connection with public institutions. It was opened for use on October 15th, 1902.

### THE GENERAL DISPENSARY.

In August, 1858, a movement was set on foot to establish a Dispensary in East Grinstead, and after a few preliminary meetings two rooms were taken at the house now occupied in the High Street, and the institution was started on September 30th of the year named, 11 patients being treated the first day. The first meeting of subscribers had been held on September 23rd, the Honble. and Rev. Reginald W. Sackville West (afterwards 7th Earl De la Warr) being in the chair, but it is to Mr. Henry H. Kennedy, then tenant of Saint Hill, that the institution really owes its existence. At this meeting the late Mr. J. H. Rogers, of Green Hedges, proffered his gratuitous

professional services to the charity, which were gratefully accepted. For a long period the institution did good work therapeutically, but was less successful financially. Mr. Rogers controlled the finance department as honorary secretary until January, 1865, when he tendered his resignation of this office, and was succeeded by the Rev. C. W. Payne Crawford, who still carries out its duties. It may be remarked that the position of the Dispensary now greatly differs from that which it held at its inception. It then occupied a hired house, there was no patients' waiting room, the medical officers received no salary, the credit balance was at zero. But the curtain has risen on a transformation scene. The freehold house has been purchased and vested in trustees, a commodious waiting room has been supplied, the medical officers are salaried, there is a credit balance in Consols. The Committee of Management embody the principal residents in the district, and the average annual number of medical, surgical and dental cases treated may be taken to be about 800.

## LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS.

One hundred years ago, when circulating libraries in the country were unknown, book clubs were common institutions in the country districts. Some survive in parts of Cardiganshire to the present day. A number of people associated together and each was allowed to order books to a given amount. These were then circulated for a year in regular order amongst the members, and at the end of 12 months each member had the first privilege of purchasing any book which he had ordered at a given discount, and those books which were not so disposed of were put up to auction among the members generally and a fresh stock procured for the following year. A club of this kind existed in East Grinstead, at any rate, from 1811 to 1841, and possibly for a much longer period. The only relic of it now is a decanter waggon (for passing the decanters round the table after dinner) in the form of a large boat mounted on wheels,

framed in oak made from the “Royal George” and decorated and modelled in silver, with a very beautiful silver chiselled dolphin’s head for a figure head, now in the possession of Mr. Hastie. On one side is the following Latin inscription:—

CAROLO NAIRN HASTIE  
 qui sodalitat̃s literarię in Villa de East Grinstead constitutę  
 per xxx annos immunis suęque voluntate rationes  
 fideliter procuravit  
 Hoc  
 Benevolentię simul gratię animi quęcunque  
 testimonium  
 D D  
 Amici ejus sodalesque  
 A.D. MDCCCL.

The following is a free translation:—

To Charles Nairn Hastie, who of his own free will for thirty years gratuitously managed the affairs of the Literary Society of East Grinstead, this slight testimonial of goodwill and grateful mind was given by his friends and companions in 1841.

On the other side is another Latin inscription as follows:—

E Nave  
 in classe Britannica  
 Regalis Georgii cognomine insignita  
 quę A.D. MDCCCLXXXII mari submersa est  
 Anno MDCCCLXI e fluctibus revocata  
 Excerptum est  
 hoc robur.

This may be freely translated:—

This piece of oak is taken from a ship in the British fleet known by the name of the “Royal George” which was sunk in the sea in 1732 and raised from the water in 1841.

When the book club came to an end in 1841 a circulating library was established in the back room of the shop of the late Henry Nicholas in the High Street. He was the first person to undertake the sale of daily newspapers in East Grinstead.

As the outcome of a meeting held on November 14th, 1843, at the Hermitage, the residence of Mr. W. Pearless, the first Literary and Scientific Institute was founded in East Grinstead. It occupied two rooms at Mr. Paul’s, adjoining the Swan Hotel, and among the



furniture purchased were 12 candlesticks and four pairs of snuffers. The committee was soon charged with promulgating infidel principles, but at a specially convened meeting on September 13th, 1844, the accusation was denied. Some dozens of lectures were given, but the committee refused to hear one on capital punishment. The Institute was dissolved for want of patronage on October 14th, 1847. Then the East Grinstead Young Men's Mental Improvement Society sprang into being and lasted from August 22nd, 1849, to October 10th, 1851, meeting in Zion School Room. Another Institute was established on December 15th, 1851, and used rooms at Mr. Garrett's in the Middle Row for two years, when it ceased to exist. On March 28th, 1853, a Mechanics' Institution was founded and flourished for a long time at the old Court House, which stood on a part of the site now occupied by Mr. C. M. Wilson's furniture stores. On November 26th, 1855, the experiment was made of lighting one room by gas. On March 31st, 1858, the Court House and a coachbuilder's shop connected with it were demolished by fire and the Institution Library of some 700 volumes entirely destroyed. The organisation continued to exist until September 26th, 1861, when its remaining property was handed over to the landlord in lieu of rent. The fifth institution of the kind was called "The East Grinstead Association and Circulating Library," and this also used the rebuilt Court House, lasting from March 10th, 1862, to April 2nd, 1869. Nothing more was done until January, 1881, when Messrs. F. Tooth and C. F. W. Stannard were the means of forming a Mutual Improvement Society at the Elephant's Head, now the Cottage Hospital. Mr. W. Hosken was its first President and Mr. F. Tooth Vice-President. This changed its name to the East Grinstead Debating and Social Club. From the Elephant's Head the Society moved to a room at the then Public Hall and became the East Grinstead Debating and Social Club. About this time some gentlemen (Mr. E. A. Arnold, Mr. C. E. Collins and others) felt the desirability of and need for a Library for

the town. They collected a sum of money sufficient to form the nucleus of a Library, and, not wishing to create another Society, approached the members of the Social and Debating Club and amalgamated with them, the Society becoming, on October 13th, 1882, the East Grinstead Literary and Scientific Institute. At the same time it moved to a room in the premises now occupied by the International Tea Company, and from here to rooms then in the possession of Mr. Geo. Bridgland and now occupied by Haylock & Co. In October, 1888, the members, with the Societies' effects, went over *en bloc* to the new Institute established in the present building, which was first used on November 3rd, but formally opened by Lord Hampden on November 24th of that year, the foundation stone having been laid on April 7th by Mrs. Oswald Smith, whose husband had granted the land on which the building was erected on a 999 years' lease, commencing on December 9th, 1887, at a rental of 1s. a year if demanded. The Trustees nominated in the trust deed were Messrs. B. G. O. Smith, C. E. Collins, W. V. K. Stenning, G. S. Head, H. S. Little (since deceased), J. Rice and W. Young. This building stands as the town's memorial of the celebration of Queen Victoria's first jubilee, and when the 999 years of the lease have expired Mr. Smith's heirs will have the right to take possession of it on paying its full ascertained value.

## PUBLIC HALLS AND MEETING PLACES.

East Grinstead possessed its theatre as long ago as 1758, but it was evidently of a very primitive character, for an old play bill announcing the performance of the "Tragedy of Theodosius" for May 4th of that year states that:—"On account of the prodigious demand for places, part of the stable will be laid into boxes on one side, and the granary be open for the same purpose on the other." Another play bill of June 7th, 1826, announces "the elegant comedy of 'How to Get Married,'" in the "Theatre, Town Hall, East Grinstead."

For many years the room used for public entertainments was known as "Thompson's Corn Store," and then it became known and used as the County Court House.

The first step towards building a really suitable Public Hall for East Grinstead was taken on November 20th, 1867, when a town meeting was held to consider the matter, a committee formed and a deputation appointed to wait on George, 5th Earl De la Warr, and Lord West to seek their aid. In due course a Company was formed, the site of the old County Court House, which belonged to Mr. William Pearless and Mr. John Smith, was secured, and the Public Hall erected. Builders varied in their tenders in those days. The highest was £1,750, the lowest £1,007. The building was commenced in June, 1875, and first used on January 4th, 1876.

Mr. G. Bridgland erected the Grosvenor Hall, London Road, in 1883, and it was first used—for a C.E.T.S. musical entertainment—on February 11th, 1884.

The Queen's Hall was commenced by the late Mrs. Murchison, widow of Mr. K. R. Murchison, of Brockhurst, as a part of the Workmen's Club and as a memorial to her husband, but she suddenly stopped the work when she discovered that it was proposed to let the hall for public purposes. The Trustees took possession of the unfinished building, borrowed money for its completion, and it was opened on July 8th, 1899, by the late Sir Edward Blount.

The Parish Hall, standing in a corner of the old Chequer Mead, was erected by members of the Church of England connected with the Parish Church, and opened on December 28th, 1899.

## THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

The need of Elementary Day Schools became very pressing in 1859. For those who would not or could not get accommodation at the Grammar School, there was no alternative but to walk to Forest Row, and many lads did so, while the occasional closing of the Grammar School, owing to disputes as to its management, rendered

the need all the more imperative. On January 13th of the year named a public meeting was convened and immediately two factions sprung into existence. The Church of England adherents urged school establishment on the National or Church system, and the Nonconformists favoured the British and Foreign School Society. The meeting adopted a resolution favouring the latter, but a fortnight later the Rev. J. N. Harward (Vicar) announced to a second meeting that the site for the new buildings, money for their erection and means for their maintenance were all forthcoming for schools upon the National system. The Dissenters strongly protested, but without avail, and the building of the present Boys' and Infant Schools, with the school-house between, was almost immediately commenced, the date "1859" appearing over the centre doorway. The site and much of the necessary fund for erecting the buildings were found by the Countess Amherst, a lady who took the deepest interest in all religious work in East Grinstead and provided large sums of money for Church purposes.

On October 23rd, 1860, as the buildings were nearing completion, she and her trustees granted and conveyed them "without valuable consideration" to the Vicar and Churchwardens, as trustees for the time being, "to be used for a school for the education of children and adults or children only of the labouring, manufacturing or other poorer classes in the parish of East Grinstead and for no other purpose." The schools were to be "always in union with and conducted according to the principles and furtherance of the ends and designs of the National Society for promoting the education of the poor in the principles of the Established Church." They were to be managed by a committee, of whom the Vicar was to be one, his curate or curates, if he cared to appoint him or them, others and ten more elected by subscribers of 10s. each, but no one was to be qualified to serve as a Manager unless he subscribed 20s. or more annually and was a member of the Church of England. The first 10 nominated by the trust deed were Messrs. R. W. Smyth,

G. E. Clarke, W. Stenning, W. A. Head, G. Head, J. Whyte, G. Covey, J. Smith, A. Hastie and J. Hayward. Not one of these survive to-day. The schools were opened on January 1st, 1861, but the committee appointed soon ceased to take an active interest in them. For some 10 years or more they were controlled by the Rev. C. W. Payne Crawford and for a time flourished exceedingly, but after a while there was a decided falling off in the voluntary subscriptions, and a demand for public control arose. At a specially convened Vestry meeting, however, held on June 17th, 1875, the ratepayers decided by 11 votes to eight that a School Board would be very prejudicial to the parish, but on September 28th of the same year, the schools having been entirely closed for a time, this decision was reversed and the formation of a School Board decided on. The first members of this body were the Rev. D. Y. Blakiston (Vicar), the Rev. G. C. Fisher (afterwards Bishop of Ipswich), Rev. E. E. Long (the Pastor of Zion), Mr. G. Head, Mr. T. Cramp, Mr. J. Mills and Mr. W. Young. For six years a contested election was avoided, but in 1881 there were nine candidates for the seven seats. Messrs. T. Cramp and W. H. Steer were rejected, and those chosen were Rev. J. Brantom (now of Hurstmonceux), Rev. W. A. Linnington, Mr. J. Bridgland, Mr. J. I. Glaysher, Mr. J. Mills, Mr. H. Morris and Mr. Ovenden (then landlord of the Crown Hotel). Mr. Evelyn A. Head was Clerk to the School Board for the whole time of its existence.

In 1877 the Vicar and Churchwardens leased the buildings to the School Board for seven years, at a rental of 5s. per annum, and in 1884 this lease was renewed for another 21 years on the same terms. When the School Board commenced work there was accommodation for 473 scholars, and when its duties were taken over by the Education Committee of the County Council 837 scholars could be dealt with. The present schoolmaster's house and the girls' school were erected by the School Board on land other than that conveyed by Lady Amherst, the whole forming part of what was once known as Slaughterhouse Mead.

At the present time, the lease having expired, there is some talk about the Church party re-taking possession of the old section of the buildings and carrying on therein a Church of England Voluntary School.

### THE MODERN SCHOOL.

This valuable and much-needed institution was established at its present location in the Cantelupe Road in the year 1894 by the Rev. Robert Bidwell Matson, B.A., who had for some time been Curate here and who saw the great need of a high-class day school for the sons of the trading and professional classes in the town. The number of scholars averages from 30 to 40 and the boys are given a thoroughly sound and Christian education. In fact, Mr. Matson not only turns out good scholars, but he makes gentlemen of them. Though the school has only been established twelve years, several of its old boys have already attained honourable positions in private life or public service. Mr. Matson is a B.A. of Merton College, Oxford, was ordained in 1884 and prior to coming to East Grinstead held a curacy at Busbridge, Surrey, and a lectureship at the Exeter Training College for schoolmasters, and was head master of Zonnebloem College, South Africa.

### BANKS.

The East Grinstead Savings Bank was started on February 1st, 1819, and it very rapidly developed into an important and popular institution, its deposits reaching to £20,000 in a very short time. Its affairs were managed by a number of local residents and it served a useful purpose until the need for it ceased in consequence of equal facilities being afforded by the Government through the Post Office. Mr. Charles Turner was its last Actuary and under his superintendence its affairs were wound up and it ceased to exist on January 20th, 1896, the accounts of depositors, amounting to £11,553. 19s. 11d. and a clear surplus of £114. 12s. 5d.,

being handed over to the Post Office Savings Bank. The owners of several accounts, some running into hundreds of pounds, have never been traced, and of these the National Debt Commissioners stand a fair chance of reaping the benefit.

To meet the needs of the poorer classes a Penny Bank was established on September 18th, 1851, and opened on the following Saturday week, when 28 individuals made deposits amounting to 16s. 2d. A week later 58 deposits were made, amounting to £2. 2s. 2d., and by October 11th the depositors numbered 85. In the first half-year they grew to 215 and the amount deposited was £61. 17s. 8d., increased to £121 by the time the year closed. Mr. A. Hastie was the Treasurer and Mr. T. Cramp the Secretary throughout its existence. It came to an end on December 21st, 1877, when the £20 balance remaining in hand was divided amongst the six Sunday Schools in the parish.

The existing commercial banks are all of comparatively modern date. At the beginning of the last century and down to about 1810, there was a bank in East Grinstead, known as John and Andrew Burt, carried on at the house in the High Street now occupied by Messrs. Young and Sons' extensive grocery establishment. After the Burts gave up business Mr. John Head, grandfather of Messrs. William and Evelyn Head, now in partnership as solicitors, had the same premises and became agent for the Lewes Old Bank, and he was succeeded in the same agency by his son George, who in time established himself as a banker, and Mr. John Smith then became Messrs. Molineux, Whitfeld & Co.'s agent. To him succeeded Mr. William Rudge, and at his death, on February 23rd, 1887, the bankers themselves took over the direct management of the branch here. Their firm was amalgamated with that of Barclay & Co. in 1897. Head's Bank failed on February 24th, 1892, and this immediately brought into existence here branches of Lloyds Bank Ltd. and the Capital and Counties Bank, both of which were opened in the town the day the failure was announced.

# FRIENDLY SOCIETIES AND KINDRED ORGANISATIONS.

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## CHAPTER XXI.

BENEFIT CLUBS had a footing in East Grinstead in very early times, but those which existed in the opening years of the last century were all conducted on the share-out system, and in course of time shared the fate of all such societies and one by one became extinct.

## THE FREEMASONS.

The Sackville Lodge of Freemasons, No. 1,619 in the Register of the Grand Lodge of England, and the 18th oldest of the 35 Craft lodges in the Province of Sussex, was consecrated by Wor. Bro. E. J. Turner, Dep. Prov. G.M. of Sussex, on July 11th, 1876, its warrant being dated May 9th of the same year. Its founders were Bros. W. Hale, C. Sawyer, J. H. Heckford, W. H. Hook, C. T. Young, J. Clements and W. Clilverd. The following have held office as Worshipful Masters:—

1876. W. Hale. Also P.M. of Lodges 78 and 1,351; Prov. S.G. Deacon of Sussex in 1878; Lodge Treasurer from July 11th, 1876, to July 5th, 1881. Died April, 1883.

1877. W. H. Hook.

1878. Chas. Sawyer. Lodge Secretary from July 1st, 1879, to September 7th, 1880. Bro. Sawyer went to New Zealand in 1885 and in 1891 became Junior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand.

1879. J. G. Horsey.

1880. S. Davison.

1881. E. A. Head. Prov. G. Steward, 1881; Prov. S.G. Deacon in 1882; Secretary of the Lodge from July 3rd, 1877, to July 1st, 1879; Treasurer since July 3rd, 1883. Is a Life Governor of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, and has twice served as Steward; also a Life Governor of the Boys' Institution.

1882. W. Rudge. Prov. G. Steward, 1883; Prov. G. Standard Bearer, 1884. Died February 23rd, 1887.



1883. J. G. Calway. Prov. Assist. G. Pursuivant, 1887.
1884. J. Hopkinson.
1885. A. M. Betchley. Prov. G. Steward, 1888; Prov. G. Sword Bearer, 1889; Secretary of Lodge since July 5th, 1887. Is a Life Governor of the Boys' Benevolent Institution.
1886. T. Smith. Prov. G. Standard Bearer, 1893.
1887. G. D. Woolgar.
1888. W. Hosken. Prov. Assist. G. Pursuivant, 1894.
1889. G. Mitchell. Prov. G. Pursuivant, 1890. Lodge Secretary from October 5th, 1880, to July 5th, 1887. Is a Life Governor of the Boys' Benevolent Institution.
1890. W. H. Brown. Prov. G. Standard Bearer, 1891.
1891. G. Wilson. Prov. G. Standard Bearer, 1892.
1892. F. J. Budd-Budd. Prov. G. Steward, 1896; Prov. S.G. Deacon, 1897. Is a Life Governor of the Boys' Benevolent Institution, and has twice served as Steward.
1893. F. J. Budd-Budd.
1894. D. Wood.
1895. C. M. Wilson. Prov. Dep. Assist. D. of C., 1900.
1896. W. H. Dixon.
1897. J. E. Lark. Prov. G. Sword Bearer, 1902.
1898. F. J. Budd-Budd.
1899. A. Brandt. Is a Founder of the Gatwick Lodge.
1900. J. Harrison. Is a Founder of the London Hospital Lodge. Prov. Dep. D. of C., 1905.
1901. W. H. Hills. Is a Life Governor of the Boys' Benevolent Institution.
1902. H. Young. Is a Life Governor of both the Boys' and Girls' Benevolent Institutions and has served as Steward for each. Is a Founder of the "Semper Paratus" (Fire Brigade) Lodge.
1903. W. J. S. Mann. Is a Life Governor of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and has served as Steward.
1904. E. P. Whitley Hughes.
1905. H. E. Mathews. Is a Life Governor of the Boys' and Girls' Institution, and a Founder of the Royal and Loyal Lodge, No. 2,952, a Coronation Lodge in connection with the King's Royal Rifles.

From its establishment until May 19th, 1885, the Lodge met at the Crown Hotel. The Masonic Rooms over the Ironworks at the top of West-street were then furnished, and here the brethren met from July 7th, 1885, until March 3rd, 1891, when they went back to the Crown Hotel until the Masonic Hall in St. James's Road was opened on Sept. 6th, 1898, the foundation stone having been laid on June 22nd in the same year.

## THE FORESTERS.

Court "Hand-in-Hand," No. 4,660, of the Ancient Order of Foresters is the largest and oldest of the local permanent benefit societies. It was opened at the Dorset Arms Hotel on June 18th, 1857. Some six years later the Sussex Arms was made its head quarters, and eventually it migrated to the Crown Hotel, which house has remained its place of meeting ever since. Mr. W. Harding, the present librarian of the Literary Institute, was its first secretary, a position which has been held for the past 36 years by Mr. John Moon. The membership roll totals 481 and its funds to-day reach the very gratifying total of £10,104. 12s. 10d.

## THE SHEPHERDS.

The Ancient Order of Shepherds was founded as an off-shoot of the Ancient Order of Foresters, the rules of the latter at one time not admitting of the payment of more than 14s. a week sick pay. The Shepherds was started in order that those Foresters who could afford it might secure an extra 7s., and for many years no person was allowed to join who was not already a Forester. A Sanctuary was opened at the Dorset Arms Hotel a year or two after the founding of the Foresters' Court. The late Mr. William Tooth was its first scribe, or secretary, and he was succeeded by Mr. A. M. Betchley. The membership in time became so small that those remaining eventually amalgamated with the "Star of Sussex" Sanctuary at Brighton, about a dozen members passing over. In 1882 Mr. Charles Betchley took the matter up in earnest and was instrumental in re-establishing a Sanctuary in East Grinstead. This was opened on September 26th of the year named at the Railway Hotel, and Mr. Betchley became its first scribe. The position has since been held by Messrs. W. Grove, J. W. Brown and Geo. Bristow. The Sanctuary has, for some years now, had its head quarters at the Crown Hotel. There are at present 71 members, with accumulated funds amounting to £390. 15s. 6d.

THE "PRINCESS ALEXANDRA" LODGE OF  
ODD FELLOWS.

This Lodge was opened on October 26th, 1864, at the Station Inn, now the Railway Hotel, by the officers of the Lewes District, a dispensation for the purpose having been granted to the "Victoria" Lodge at Uckfield. Twenty members joined the first evening. Two years later the Lodge, at its own request, was transferred from the Lewes to the Tonbridge District. In 1878 the headquarters were removed to the Crown Hotel, which has been the place of meeting ever since. Mr. W. H. Wood has been Secretary to the Lodge for 28 years. The members now number 256 and the funds, exclusive of a large share in the district capital, amount to £4,371. 11s. 11d.

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There are branches in the town of the Redhill Workmen's Provident Society; the Tunbridge Wells and South-Eastern Counties Equitable Association; and the Hearts of Oak Friendly Society.

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# LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES.

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## CHAPTER XXII.

### THE GAS AND WATER COMPANY.

THE question of establishing a Gas Company for East Grinstead was first considered in 1847, a committee being appointed at a meeting on January 19th in that year to consider the matter. Nothing came of it, however, and on October 25th, 1854, another public meeting was held and the question taken up in real earnest. The necessary capital was soon guaranteed; the provisional directors were elected on November 16th; a week later Mr. T. Cramp was appointed the first Secretary; a month after a site for the works was chosen; and on February 1st, 1855, the East Grinstead Gas Light and Coke Company was formed under a deed of settlement and duly registered. In its early days the Company did well. For many years its capital did not exceed £1,780, and dividends reaching 10 per cent. were paid. Then it fell upon bad times and the whole concern was mortgaged for £500. But in due course, with a change of management, its old prosperity was restored and enough was earned to pay a dividend of  $22\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Then came the addition of the Water Works, which were opened with some ceremony on December 21st, 1880. To meet the great expense involved a new Company, with increased capital, had been formed under an Act passed on June 17th, 1878. It was named the East Grinstead Gas and Water Company. The shareholders in the old Company received £12. 10s. of stock in the new for every £5 of their holding in the first Company. Mr. William Pearless was the first Chairman of the old Company and he was succeeded by Mr. W. V. K. Stenning, who still holds office. The first Directors, in addition to Mr. Pearless, were Messrs. W. Chapman, J.

Sheppard, T. Gravett, T. Foster, J. Fowle and A. T. Hooker. The present Directors are Messrs. W. V. K. Stenning, J. B. Allwork, P. E. Wallis, T. Fieldwick, F. Turner and J. Donaldson. Mr. Evelyn A. Head has held the position of Secretary for many years. Mr. D. T. Livesey is in charge of the Gas Works and Mr. R. G. Payne, who comes of a very old East Grinstead family, has the superintendence of the Water Works. The authorised capital is £57,814, of which £5,814 is "A" stock, £7,000 "A" shares, £5,000 "B" shares and £40,000 "C" shares. The whole of the "A" stock and "A" and "B" shares have been issued, together with £20,000 of the "C" shares. There have also been debentures issued to the amount of £8,053. 10s., making, with premiums, a total capital issue of £48,232. 7s. 6d.

The progressive section of the community were not long in making their presence felt after the establishment of the Company. The subject of public lighting was brought before a specially convened Vestry meeting, held on September 22nd, 1855, and a resolution in favour of the adoption of the Watching and Lighting Act was only defeated on the casting vote of the Chairman. Nothing daunted, the promoters began the collection of subscriptions, and on November 9th, 1855, the streets of the town were lighted for the first time by gas. The benefits of the system were so appreciated that a year later, October 16th, 1856, the Vestry reversed its prior decision and agreed to adopt public lighting by gas for a radius of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles from the Parish Church at an expense not exceeding £80 a year. Having got the required permission, the Gas Company lost no time in extending the system under the direction of the lighting inspectors. To meet the cost, the charge then being 7s. 6d. per 1,000 feet, it was found necessary at the ensuing Easter Vestry on March 19th, 1857, to make a lighting rate over the specified area of 8d. in the £ on houses and 2d. in the £ on land. As soon as they had to pay people began to grumble, and the result was that on November 27th of the same year a poll was taken on the question of the amount to be allowed and 152 people voted for £80 a

year, but only 16 for cutting it down to £40 a year. Since then the system has gradually developed until now East Grinstead is as well provided with public lights as any town of its size in the South of England at a cost of about £500 per annum.

In 1896 an attempt was made to introduce the electric light, and on June 26th of that year the East Grinstead Electric Lighting Company was incorporated with a capital of £15,000. The Urban Council, however, gave notice that it would oppose the Company's provisional order, as it desired itself to have control of the electric light. Consequently the Company died out, and in time the Urban Council changed its mind and abandoned all idea of building electric light works. The electric light was first used in East Grinstead on January 13th, 1885, when it was temporarily installed for a bachelor's ball at the Crown Hotel.

Gas was first publicly used in the village of Forest Row on November 18th, 1903.

### SANITARY LAUNDRY COMPANY.

This Company was incorporated in September, 1889, with a capital of £4,000 in 800 shares of £5 each, of which 590 shares, producing £2,950, have so far been issued. The Company was formed to take over the laundry which had been built in Wood Street, Station Road, and to carry on there or elsewhere the business of a laundry company in all its branches. The premises were publicly opened for use on November 2nd, 1889. The present Directors of the Company are Messrs. Evelyn A. Head (chairman), H. S. Martin, A. Bridgland, C. M. Wilson and W. H. Hills. Mr. S. J. Huggett is secretary.

### CONSTITUTIONAL CLUB COMPANY.

This Company was incorporated on July 3rd, 1890, with a capital of £4,000, divided into 4,000 shares of £1 each, of which 2,124 shares have at present been issued. The Directors of the Company are Messrs. W. V. K.

Stenning (chairman), W. H. Hills (managing director and secretary), H. Daniels, H. B. Harwood, A. Heasman, H. S. Martin and J. A. Payne. The Club was opened on March 30th, 1893, the building occupying the site of several small shops and cottages formerly known as "The Round Houses."

### RICE BROTHERS, LIMITED.

This highly-reputable and widely-spread business is one of the oldest of the local trading companies, and has had a successful career since its formation. Its certificate of incorporation is dated August 11th, 1893. The Company was formed to take over the business of saddlery manufacturers and implement agents carried on by Mr. Thomas Rice and Mr. Joseph Rice, which had been established many years before in the premises now owned by Mr. George Brinkhurst and adjoining the Swan Hotel. It was for a long period owned by members of the Hayward family, and then passed through the hands of the Charlwood and Brinkhurst families before coming to the Rices. The capital of the Company is £4,200, divided into 100 four per cent. preference shares of £10 each and 320 ordinary shares of £10 each. The whole of this has been issued. Since its incorporation the Company has opened up branches at Edenbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Haywards Heath, Lindfield and Horsham. The Directors are Messrs. P. E. Wallis (chairman), T. Voice, Thomas, Joseph, Alfred and James Rice, the last-named having taken the place of Mr. Henry Smith, who was an original Director.

### THE SOUTHDOWN AND EAST GRINSTEAD BREWERIES, LIMITED.

This Company was registered on June 11th, 1895, with the object of acquiring the businesses of brewers and maltsters and wine and spirit merchants of Messrs. Dashwood & Co., East Grinstead, and Messrs. A. G. S. and T. S. Manning, of the Southdown Brewery, Lewes, as from July 1st, 1895.

The capital was originally £95,000, divided into 5,000 5 per cent. preference shares of £10 each and 4,500 ordinary shares of like value. There was also a 4 per cent. first mortgage of £25,000 on the Southdown Brewery, and 4 per cent. debenture stock for £50,000. In 1898 Messrs. Monk & Sons' Bear Brewery, at Lewes, and the Dolphin Brewery, at Cuckfield, having been purchased, the share capital was increased to the present total amount of £165,000, by the creation of 4,500 preference and 2,500 ordinary £10 shares, which were offered for public subscription in March, 1898, the preference shares at a premium of 10s. and the ordinary shares at par. At the same time subscriptions were invited at £103 per cent. for £96,000 4 per cent. perpetual "A" mortgage debenture stock, forming part of an authorised total of £170,000. By this means the total capital was increased from £170,000 to £321,000, the mortgage on the Southdown Brewery having been paid off. The balance of the authorised debenture stock has since been issued, so that the paid-up capital is now £335,000, made up of £95,000 in preference shares, £70,000 in ordinary shares and £170,000 in debenture stock.

Mr. A. G. S. Manning is the chairman, the other Directors being Mr. William Pawley and Mr. T. S. Manning (managing director). The Company has been most successful, dividends on its ordinary shares having reached 18 per cent.

#### A. & C. BRIDGLAND, LIMITED.

This Company took over the well-known manufacturing and furnishing ironmongery business established in the High Street in the year 1840 by the late Mr. James Bridgland. It was removed in 1865 to the existing premises in London Road, and there carried on by Mr. Bridgland until his death in 1887, and afterwards by his sons, Messrs. Alfred & Charles Bridgland. The Company was registered on November 30th, 1898, with a total capital of £10,000, in 5,000 5 per cent. preference shares



of £1 each and 5,000 ordinary shares of £1 each. There have so far been issued the whole of the preference shares and 4,000 of the ordinary shares. The Directors of the Company are Messrs. A. Bridgland (chairman and managing director), A. Heasman, J. B. Allwork and A. Davis. Mr. E. T. Berry has been secretary from the commencement.

### FARNCOMBE AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

This Company owns businesses at Lewes, Eastbourne and East Grinstead. It was registered on August 31st, 1899, to take over the general printing works in the towns named long owned by Mr. Joseph Farncombe and the newspapers published by him, including the *East Sussex News*, *Eastbourne Chronicle*, *East Grinstead Observer*, *Sussex and Surrey Courier* and other well-known county journals. The capital of the Company is £30,000, divided into 6,000 shares of £5, of which 4,300 shares, making a capital of £21,500, have up to the present been issued. The Directors from the first have been Messrs. J. Farncombe, J. Farncombe, jun., T. J. Farncombe, F. R. Terson and H. G. Walston.

### FOSTERS, EAST GRINSTEAD, LIMITED.

This Company was registered on April 10th, 1901, with a capital of £3,000 in 600 shares of £5 each, for the purpose of taking over the business of steam road roller proprietors and reaping, mowing and haulage contractors hitherto carried on by the Executors of the late Mr. Abraham Foster, of Hazelden Farm, East Grinstead. Up to the present 500 of the shares have been issued. The first Directors were Messrs. Joseph Rice (chairman), D. Dadswell, W. Miles and W. H. Hills, and they still hold office. The character of the business has been greatly changed during latter years and the Company has now the largest engineering works in the neighbourhood.

### H. S. MARTIN, LIMITED.

This Company was registered on June 23rd, 1904, with a capital of £10,000 in 10,000 shares of £1 each. It was established to continue the business so long conducted by Mr. H. S. Martin, and subsequently by Mr. W. Carter, of chemist and mineral water manufacturer. Only £2,880 of the share capital has been issued. There is also a debenture issue of £3,000 out of an authorised series of £3,500. The Directors are Messrs. J. C. Umney, W. Carter, H. S. Martin and W. H. Hills.

### JOHN STENNING & SON, LIMITED.

This Company has a capital of £36,000, divided into 3,600 shares of £10 each, of which 2,276 shares, representing a capital of £22,760, have been issued. It was incorporated on July 11th, 1900, for the purpose of acquiring, carrying on and working as a going concern the business of John Stenning & Son, timber merchants and sawmill proprietors, of London, East Grinstead and Robertsbridge, and which was originally established in 1792. The Directors of the Company are Messrs. A. H. Stenning (chairman), W. J. Stenning and H. B. Harwood.

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## ADDENDA.

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Pages 16 and 31.—Thomas Cure, who obtained the grant of arms for East Grinstead on being returned by the Borough to Parliament, was buried in Southwark Cathedral, and over his tomb is a marble stone, inscribed:—

THOMAS CURE, ESQ<sup>r</sup>  
(of Southwark)

Obiit 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1588

Elizabetha tibi princeps servivit Equorum  
A Sellis Curus quem lapis iste tegit.  
Serviit Edwardo Regi Mariæque Sorori;  
Principibus magna est laus placuisse tribus.  
Convixit cunctis charus respublica Curæ  
Semper erat Curo Commoda plebis erant.  
Dum vixit, tribui senibus curavit alendis  
Nummorum in sumptus annua dona domos.

This piece of punning poetry has puzzled many a latter-day scholar. Was Cure a prosperous tradesman who served three monarchs, or was he an officer in three successive Royal households—those of Edward VI., Mary and Elizabeth? Bearing in mind that it was in the reign of the last-named monarch that he was elected to Parliament and that Lord Buckhurst, the patron of this Borough, was Lord High Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth, the latter was possibly the honour he enjoyed, and the following is perhaps not a very incorrect free translation of the inscription:—

Cure, whom this stone covers, served Elizabeth as Master of her saddle-horses. He served also King Edward and Mary his sister. A great honour is it to have pleased three Sovereigns. He lived beloved by all. The State was ever a care to Cure. The welfare of the people was a care to him. During his lifetime he cared for the support of the aged and caused annual gifts of money to be assigned to meet the expenses, and he gave houses also.

Page 24.—In 1384 Ricardus Danyell and Ricardus Woghre were returned M.P.'s for East Grinstead on April 29th and November 12th.

Page 30th.—At the bye-election in 1557-8, caused by Thomas Sackville electing to sit for Westmoreland, Thomas Farnham was returned for East Grinstead.

Page 38.—On April 21st, 1675, Edward Sackville was elected for East Grinstead in the place of Lord Buckhurst, created a Peer.—On October 25th, 1678, Thomas Pelham was returned *vice* Edward Sackville, deceased.

Page 49.—The following were additional bye-elections: On April 5th, 1715, and November 6th, 1722, Richard Lord Viscount Shannon was returned for East Grinstead *vice* Spencer Compton, who on each occasion elected to sit for the County of Sussex; on April 6th, 1725, Edward Conyers was returned *vice* John Conyers, deceased.



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